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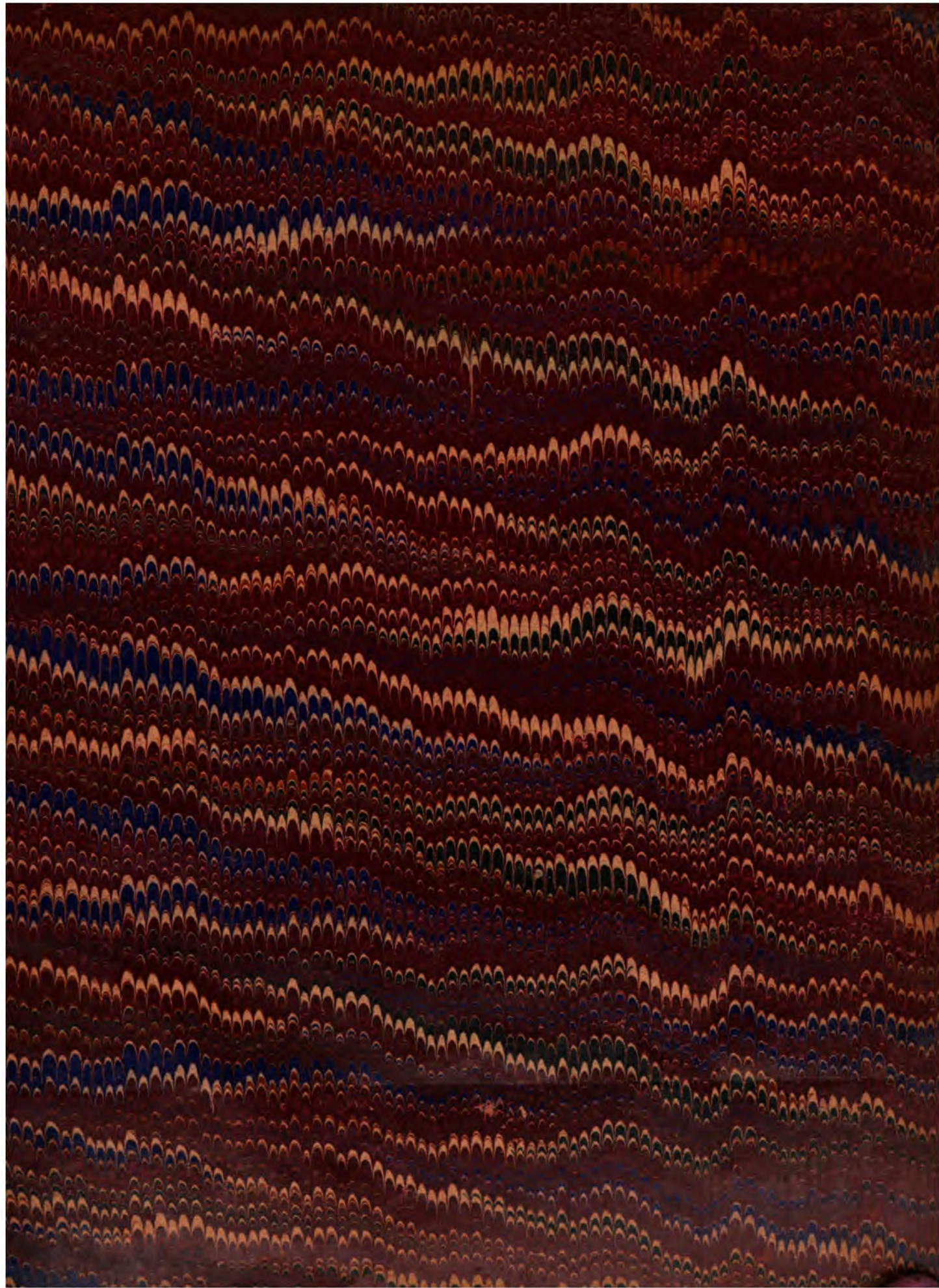
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DEANERY OF BICESTER.



PART II.

HISTORY OF BICESTER.

THE

HISTORY OF BICESTER,

Its Town and Priory.

COMPILED BY

J. C. BLOMFIELD. M.A.,

RECTOR OF LAUNTON, AND RURAL DEAN.

"There are faces which nature charges with a meaning and pathos not belonging to the single human soul, which flutters beneath them, but speaking the joys and sorrows of foregone generations. The present may be said to be the summary of the past. The forms of religious worship, for instance, may have varied, but after all it is our happiness to believe and trust that the variations only played over the surface of a deeper and more continuous religious life. The old Churches still echo to the praises of the same Redeemer. At those ancient holy tables the villagers still kneel, as they knelt of old. There are fonts, at which the children have been baptised for at least 800 years. Chancel aisles are still standing, which have witnessed the marriage vows of Christian man and maid for 30 generations. The earth around these grey walls is still the sleeping place for that long succession of the departed. Can we doubt that God's eye has discovered the marks of faith and love in many a forgotten member of that humble ancestry, and that the world is the better at this moment, not only for the great and famous, who resembled a city set upon a hill, but for the pious patience of many nameless units in the great mass of obscure vitality, whose influence was more like the secret working of the salt of the earth."

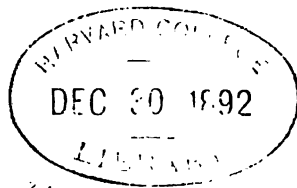
(Archdeacon Hannak's Sermon, July, 1883, before the Archaeological Institute at Lewes.)

BICESTER:

PRINTED BY SMITH AND PANKHURST, MARKET PLACE.

1884.

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11
1892 good.

ERRATA.

P. 11, line 16, "To the S. of the Roman road." Read "To the N. of," &c.

P. 18, "In 1851 Sir Michael Blount came," &c. Read 1581.

BURNE-CEASTER, BERNECESTRE, BURCESTER, BISSITER, BICESTER.

—:0:—

THE first English settlers here took up their position in the Roman encampment, which extended for some length along the banks of the stream flowing down from the North. They therefore named their place of settlement "Burne-ceaster," the brook or stream encampment.⁽¹⁾ The stream near this spot was not of sufficient power to turn a water-mill. This necessity of village life was therefore built lower down, where a greater body of water could be dammed up.⁽²⁾ A hard way or road was formed to the mill crossing the stream at a fordable spot, and along the line of it houses with their enclosures gradually sprung up. This road was extended⁽³⁾ beyond the village to Wrecwic on the S, and Bukenhull, Somerton, and other villages on the N.⁽⁴⁾

1 Several conjectures have been made about the origin of the name of this town. 1 The writer of the M.S. History of Alchester (given in Kennett's P.A.) derives it from the missionary Birinus (Birini-castrum). 2 Dr. Plot derives it from Burnwood, "upon the edge whereof it was then seated," without giving the meaning of the prefix Burn; and he supposes the latter forms of the name to have come from St. Eadburg, the Patron Saint of the Parish Church and Priory "Burgcestre." 3 Skinner (Etym^a Ling^æ Anglic^æ) derives it from the A S *bern* or *beren*, meaning a barley-place, a barn, understanding the name to signify a grange or depository of corn. 4 Dr. Kennett, though he forgets that the termination "Ceaster" or "Cestre" is invariably a proof of Roman occupation, says "This Burnepuda or "Beornpuda being a woody track and forest of the widest extent, "and greatest eminence seems to have been called from the Saxon "beorn, an epithet of dignity and remark; so perhaps this adjoining town, being a place of greatest strength to the West Saxons "against the Britons, or Mercians, and at last against the "Danes, it might be honoured with the title of their Beorn- "ceaster, castrum primum, their principal fort and garrison." This last conjecture was adopted by the writer in "Part I of the History of the Bicester Deanery," where the name is interpreted to mean "The great camp," but he has been since informed by scholars of most competent judgment that it is very questionable whether any instance can be found in Anglo-Saxon of *beorn* being used in this sense; its usual meaning being a warrior, a soldier, and thus a chief, a meaning which it retains, when it forms a prefix or affix to any other word. 5 Mr. Harrison in his description of England, imagining without any authority that the brook, which

runs through the town, had been named by the Romans "Burus," supposes the name to have been taken from it. 6 Mr. Hearne also conjectures that the name is taken from the stream but from the A. S. name of it, *burne*, which is in all probability the correct derivation.

2 Where it existed until the beginning of the present century in the grounds of the house now called "The Priory." "Adjoining the turnpike was a very ancient mill, mentioned in "Doomsday Book, the dam of which, a fine body of water, was "greatly admired by strangers. The mill-house has been improved, "and is now a handsome structure, but has lost much of its picturesque appearance from the water having been lately arched "over, and the space covered with green-sward." (Dunkin's History of Bicester, 1816).

3 Mr. Dunkin points out the existing traces of this road. "Many of the foundations of the old town remain in Mr. Coker's "close, and on examining them they seemed to intimate that the "old town of Berencester stood on both sides of a road, which led "in nearly a straight line from the Roman road near Gravenhull "into the Bucknell road above the stone pits; and that the fosse and "vallum which for a short distance are parallel with the brook, and "run in the direction of those in the Horse close, seemed to have "joined them, and formed a part of the ancient fortification." (History of Bicester, p. 135, note.)

4 In the direction of the raised path now leading to the Union House, which leads straight from the old village into the open country.

The way to Somerton still remains, as a bridle-way.

The Domesday Survey gives the first insight into the state of this village and the adjoining hamlet of Wrecwic after four centuries of existence.

LANDS OF ROBERT DE OILY.

Robert holds Berncestre for two manors. There are fifteen hides and a half there. Land to twenty-two ploughs. Of this land there are three hides in the demesne, and therein six ploughs and five bondsmen; and twenty-eight villanes with fourteen bordars have sixteen ploughs. There are two mills of forty shillings, and twelve acres of meadow. Wood one quarentine long, and one broad. It was worth fifteen pounds; now sixteen.

There is evidence here of continued progress. The two separate manors of Berncestre and Wrecwic had become united in the hands of one proprietor, forming the largest and most valuable estate in this district. It was retained by the new Norman lord in his own occupation, and was increasing in value during his tenure of it. The adult male population had risen to 47 persons, which implies a general population of about 200 souls. From the increase of the produce and cultivators of the land a second mill had become necessary,⁽¹⁾ and the rent of the two mills, exceeding any in this district, tells of the large quantity of corn grown within the manors. At the death of Robert of Oily (A.D. 1090), the two manors passed to his son-in-law Miles Crispin, then resident at Wallingford; and at the death of the latter, without issue (A.D. 1107), they reverted to the Crown, when a grant of them was obtained by a near relation of their former possessors.⁽²⁾

LORDS OF THE MANOR.

Gilbert Basset, a younger son of Ralph Basset (a Norman of inferior rank, who had been made by the Conqueror Justice of England, and was afterwards (I Hen. I., A. D. 1100), created Baron of Weldon, in Northamptonshire), had married into the De Oily family, and by virtue of this relationship he obtained a grant of some of the lands which Robert of Oily had held. This grant consisted of seven Knights' Fees,⁽³⁾ of the Honour of Wallingford, viz., the manors of Coleham and Uxbridge in Middlesex, Pickeshorne in Bucks, Burncestre, Wrecwic and Stratton in Oxon, Ardington in Berks, and Compton in Wilts.

Gilbert Basset built a house as a residence for himself within the manor of Berncestre. This manor-house stood on some of the meadow land mentioned in the Survey, close to the brook, which divides Berncestre from Wrecwic.⁽⁴⁾ It was surrounded by a moat (easily supplied with

¹ This mill was erected within the manor of Wrecwic, on the stream flowing down from Launton, near Langford. In the founder's deed of gift to the Priory there is mention of an old mill dam existing there, and in William de Longspe's benefaction in 1245, a mill is mentioned, then called "Puff's Mill." Traces of the mill dam and stream are still distinctly visible, on the side of the field-road in the allotment land, immediately after crossing the Langford Bridge on the Aylesbury road.

² A M.S. (given in Mr. Dunkin's History of Bullingdon and Ploughley Hundreds. vol. II, Appendix No. 1) gives the descent of the manors differently. "Bicester and Wretchwick were the property of Wigod 18 Edw. Conf., 1060, and passed by his daughter in marriage to Robert D'Oilly, 10 Will. Conq., 1077; who dying left them to his brother, Nigel D'Oilly, 10 Will. Ruf., 1096; who left them to his son Robert L'Oilly, junr., 12 Hen.

"1, 1112, who gave two parts of the tithe to Oseney Abbey, 30 Hen. 1, 1130, and gave the manors with his daughter in marriage to Gilbert Bassett, 2 Stephen, 1137, who, &c.," But see Kennett's P.A., A.D. MCVII.

³ A Knight's fee was supposed to be so much land as would suffice to maintain him, and enable him to present himself and his retainers ready equipped for the king's service. It was therefore a variable quantity, from 100 to 500 acres.

⁴ When Leland visited this town in Henry VIII's reign, the site of this house had become doubtful. "The foundations which still remain in the Horse Close, in an area, apparently once surrounded by a moat, together with their proximity to the monastery, warrant the conjecture of that spot having been the site of the mansion, and that it was encompassed by a considerable park." (Dunkin's History of Bicester, note p 55).

water from the brook), and a small inclosure or park, and had a chapel or oratory attached to it. In this house G. Basset resided for more than half a century. Under his superior lord, Brien Fitz-Count (who had married the widow of Miles Crispin, and had thus become possessed of the Castle and Honour of Wallingford), he took an active part in the insurrection of 1139, in favour of the Empress Maud; and was present in most of the battles of the civil war in King Stephen's reign. This part of the country, like the rest, was divided in opinion, the lord of Middleton Castle, R. de Camville, espousing the king's cause, whilst the towns of Oxford, Woodstock, Bampton, Wallingford, and others were in favour of the Empress. The good services thus rendered to the latter, by the lord of Wallingford and his dependents were not forgotten by her son Henry II., for in the second year after his accession to the throne, being in this neighbourhood, he granted the following charter of privileges and immunities.

"Henry by the grace of God, King of England, and Duke of Normandy &c., to the
 "Bishops, Earls, Barons, Justices, and all my thanes and faithful servants, French and English,
 "of all England and Normandy, greeting. I command you, that all the men and merchants of
 "the Honour of Wallingford shall enjoy sure peace throughout England and Normandy where-
 "ever they may be. And know ye, that I have given and granted to them for ever all rights
 "and customs, good and honourable, as they better, and more honourably enjoyed them in
 "the time of King Edward, of my great grandfather King William, and of my grandfather
 "King Henry. I grant to them also, wherever they may go with their merchandise, purchases,
 "or articles for sale, throughout all my land of England, and Normandy, Aquitaine and Anjou,
 "by water and by land, by wood and by strand, that they shall be free from tollage, pontage,
 "passage, piccage, pannage, and stallage, in Shires and Hundreds, and divisions of Shires and
 "Hundreds; from aid of the Sheriff; and from service of gold and Danegeld; from hidage,
 "and bloodwite, and bredewithe; from murders, and various services appertaining to murders;
 "and from works of castles, walls, ditches, footways; and from all customs and secular exactions,
 "and servile works; and that they shall not be troubled by any law beyond £10. I forbid
 "and command that nothing be done beyond this, lest anything further should vex or
 "disturb.—Witness: Theobald Archbishop of Canterbury, &c., &c., given at Oxford, June 1st, 1156."

The privileges thus granted were considerable, for by them the inhabitants of Berncestre and Wrecwic enjoyed the right of passage for their persons and goods, free from all tolls, throughout England and all the western provinces of France, and of entire exemption from the usual taxes payable to the Crown and the County. These privileges were confirmed and largely increased 50 years later by King Henry III

Gilbert Bassett gave liberally of his substance to pious purposes. One good work of his still remains in the Chancel and central Tower of the Church of Berncestre. He also benefitted the 3 religious houses, with which he was connected, giving some tithes in Wanating, and the tithe of colts reared on his manor of Berncestre to the Abbey of Abingdon¹ (where his brother Robert was a Monk); some lands and tenements at Charing to the Knights Templars; and two parts of the tithe in Stratton, with the whole tithe of wool and cheese in all his lands, to Eynesham Abbey, of which his father had also been a benefactor.² He died in 1162, and was succeeded by his eldest son.

¹ See History of Abingdon Monastery.

² Kennett's P.A., Anno MCIX.

Thomas Bassett (1162-79) married Alice, daughter of Robert de Dunstanville, lord of Islip and other neighbouring manors; High Sheriff of Oxon and Berks in 1163; appointed one of the 18 Justices Itinerant, with Oxon and the adjoining counties for his circuit; served the king, Henry II, in the various wars of his reign, and was finally rewarded by a grant of the lordship of Hedendon, the Hundred of Bolendon, and the Hundred without the North Gate of Oxford in fee farm at a yearly rent of £20. He died in the same year in which he received this mark of royal favour, leaving one daughter, and 3 sons, Gilbert, Thomas, and Alan

Gilbert Basset No. 2 (1179-1203) married Egiline, daughter of Reginald de Courteney.¹ He had no sooner entered on his patrimony, than with the full consent of his wife, he determined to found a religious house in this neighbourhood, where no such had as yet been established. Like his forefathers he was a liberal benefactor to the Knights Templars. He is mentioned among the Barons present at the Coronation of King Richard I., in 1189. Afterwards he became an adherent of the party of Earl John, and for this was compelled to purchase the king's pardon at the cost of £8. After the accession of King John, he followed the king into France, and it is generally believed that he died and was buried abroad⁽²⁾ two years later. His wife succeeded to much of his property.

"Egeline de Courteney holds of the lord the king's gift, and her land in Burncester is worth LV[£]"⁽³⁾

At her death in 1213 she was buried in the cemetery of the Priory, which she had helped to found. Their only daughter Eustace, became the wife (1) of Thomas de Verdon, Lord of Hethe manor, and (2) Richard de Camville, Lord of Middleton manor.

During the century, in which these three generations of Bassets held these manors, no change was made in the property they inherited. The original reckoning of seven Knights Fees was retained,⁽⁴⁾ and so passed into the hands of its new possessors. From this time the owners of the Middleton manor became in succession Lords of the Berncestre and Wrecwic manors.

¹ Pedigree of *Courteney* or *Courtenay*, Earls of Devonshire.

Reginald de Courteney, grandson of Lewis le Gross, King of France, held *Waddesdon*, in Bucks, temp. Hen. 2, Ob. 5 Cal. Oct. 1194, buried in Ford Abbey, Devon. (Mon-Aug., vol. v., p. 380).

William de Courteney,
eld. son, founder of Woopring
Priory, Somersetshire.

Egeline,
mar. to Gil. Basset.

² "Gilbert Basset, as some think, was buried beyond the sea. This Gilbert was but a Knight, and he was a great companion in warres to one Giffard, a noble Knight." (Leland's Itin., vol. vii.)

³ Excheats of the King in Oxfordshire in the Hundred of Pockedelau. (Testa de Nevil).

⁴ A.D. MCIX. 11. 12 Hen. 2. "The King married his eldest daughter Maud to Henry, king of the Romans, for which there was an aid or scutage imposed on all that held of the King by military service; on which occasion the Sheriff of this country made return that Thomas Basset held seven Knights' fees of the honour of Wallingford, &c.

A.D. MCCL. 2, 3 John. "The King had this year a scutage of two marks for every Knight's Fee of such as had his license to

"stay at home, upon his passing into Normandy. But Gilbert Basset, Lord of Burcester, who attended the king, had a writ of Quietus for his seven Knights' Fees within the Honour of Wallingford."

A.D. MCCV. 6, 7 John. "In this year Richard de Camville, lord of Middleton Castle gave to the King 2000 marks and ten palfreys to have the inheritance which was Gilbert Basset's whereof of the same Gilbert died seized, there being saved to the lord the King what he claims in the manor of Stoke, &c.; and by an Inquisition taken in 1212 of the Honour of Wallingford, Richard de Camville was said to hold seven Knight's Fees within the said Honour of the inheritance of his wife." (Kennett P.A.)

IN THE XIII. CENTURY.

The returns from the Hundreds in 1254 only state the ownership of this village at that time "Berncestre. The lord William Longespee holds the village of Berncestre of the same Earl "(Richard Earl of Cornwall), and of the same Honour (Wallingford). Of the heads of enquiry "they know nothing."

But we know from other sources that this William de Longespee the second Earl of Salisbury of that name, obtained the royal license to have free warren, and a weekly market, and a yearly fair within his manor of Berncestre.⁽¹⁾ From the time therefore of his ownership of the manor (1250-57) the Friday market and the first fair take their origin.

The returns from the Hundreds in 1279 add several particulars of the village and its inhabitants.

"Henry de Lacey, Earl of Lincoln, holds in the village of Burcestre iii carucates of land "in demesne, and he has this land by his wife, daughter of William de Longespee, and the "same William, had that land by the gift of the lord the King, and it is within the precincts "of the Honour of Wallingford, and he has warren, and a market, and a fair, of the lord "king Henry, father of the lord Edward, who is now king."

OF VILLEINS: "Nicholas Eynnot holds one virgate of land in the said village in villeinage "of the aforesaid Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, for viijs. yearly, and he will come once a "year to the view of frankpledge before the Steward of Wallingford and he will give scutage. "Hugh Cott holds j virgate by the same service. Robert le Waleys, &c. Robert Osmund "&c. William Russell, &c. Hugh le Waleys, &c. Robert Tedway, &c."

OF HALF-VIRGATES. "William Doning holds half a virgate in villeinage for iijs yearly, "and he will do as the aforesaid Nicholas. Hugh Chapman holds v acres in the same way. "John Franceys, &c. Simon Doning, &c. William, &c. Matilda Chapman, &c. Richard "Bruntum, &c."

"OF FREEHOLDERS." "Robert Ctrs holds one virgate of land freely of the aforesaid Earl "of Lincoln by 1 lb of cummin yearly and he will come to the view of frankpledge, as the "aforesaid Nicholas, and he will give scutage, when it is due."

"The Prior of Burncestre holds in the aforesaid village 1 hyde of land belonging to his "Church, and an $\frac{1}{4}$ hyde by gift of Philip Basset, in pure and perpetual alms."

"John Puff has one mill, and pays yearly to the said Prior vs."

Hence we may note some of the changes, which had been brought about in the two centuries, which followed the Domesday Survey. The population had remained almost stationary, for though the establishment of the Priory had introduced a new element, it had gradually lessened the number of persons holding land, because the monks took into their own occupation all the property they became possessed of in this, and the neighbouring villages, so that the occupiers of land mentioned in 1279 are actually less than those given in Domesday.² The

¹ Calendar of the Charter Rolls. Chartæ 53, Hen. III. Mem. 5. Will us Longespee.

"Libera warrena in omnibus terris suis, quas habet in Com.—Oxon, &c.—Burencestr, Feria."

² In Domesday the number of villeins and bordars is 42. In the Hundred Rolls of 1279 the numbers are—

Burncestre Manor	{ Freeholders	2
	{ Villeins	14
Wrecwick Manor	{ Villeins	25

demesne arable land remained the same, 3 carucates or hides = 160 acres,¹ but the quantities held by the inferior tenants were less, varying now from 13½ to 5 acres.² One tenant only besides the Prior, had gained a right to hold his land free of labour services, at a nominal rent.

The names of the tenants imply that one or more Welsh families had settled in the village, and that, besides the miller and blacksmith, some resident trades-men and women sold their goods in the market.

From other sources we gather that the village had now grown into a long and irregular series of dwelling houses; the poor huts of the original settlement and those subsequently built near the Crockwell, forming one end; the Manor House, the Priory buildings, the Mill-house, and others of the better sort forming "*The Bury*, (Borough or Town) *End*." The monks had early set about an improvement of the old trackway which connected the two ends of the village. The greater part of it had been paved with stones, and was therefore called "*The Street*,"³ and that part of it which was liable to flood, had been raised some feet above the level of the surrounding marsh, and was therefore called "*The Causeway*." The road on the further side of the brook leading to the mill remained a simple trackway, and was called "*The Mulneway*," or "*Mulleway*," the ridge of raised ground on its right side, which had been formed by the deepening and widening of the brook for the improvement of the mill-dam, being distinguished as "*The Green Bank*," under "the Canon's wall." The fords through the stream were a series of stepping stones. The one outside the village, leading to the stone quarry, remained still unchanged, being called Ealdford, the old ford, but at the other within the village a foot-bridge had been erected which was called "*S. Mary's brugge*."

It was customary for the religious houses of this time to make provision for the sick of their neighbourhood, by the establishment of Infirmaries independent of those within their walls. As soon therefore as Berncestre Priory, in 1218, came into possession of some land outside the village at a little distance from the houses in Crockwell, an *Hospital* or *Infirmarium* was built there.⁴ It consisted probably, like others of its kind, of a long room, with beds on either side for the sick; of two apartments, for the monk, who had the charge of it, and for his attendant clerk or chaplain, and of a kitchen. The monk resident within it was styled "The Prior of the Hospital." He knew "The virtues of all herbs of mount or vale, or green-wood shade, or quiet brooklet bed." A chapel or oratory was attached to the hospital, and was dedicated to the first new Testament Saint, who had his dwelling in the wild country, St. John the Baptist. A paved way led to this from the village,⁵ and was named "*St. John's Street*,"⁷ of which a portion still remains.

¹ This is the measure given later at the Inquisition taken after the death of Henry de Lacy in 1310. Hence we gather that the hide or carucate in Berncestre measured only 53½ acres, and the virgate 13½ acres.

² Sixteen carucates—848 acres, divided among 42 tenants, gives an average of about 20 acres to each at the time of the Domesday Survey.

³ The street of the old village is now almost entirely gone, having been enclosed within the premises of Bicester House. One little bit of it remains, where it is blocked by a wall built across it.

⁴ This raised bank is now occupied by the houses which form the W. side of Water Lane (or as it is now called Chapel Street).

⁵ "In the Priory accounts of 1301 there is mention of 6s. 8d. received from John of the Infirmary for the fine of a certain tene-

"ment in which he dwells." This is probably the same person as "John Wildelond the physician," mentioned in 1328, whose name clearly implies that the Infirmary stood in some wild uncultivated spot at a distance from the houses of the village.

⁶ The site of the Hospital was on the W side of the present Sheep Street, where an old house still stands, long in the occupation of Mr. Horwood, gardener, and of his family.

⁷ "Traces still remain of a back road through the brook into "King's End, which served for the use of teams when the drivers wished to avoid the town. After the turnpike road was made, this way was rendered impassable, and the ground added to Mr. Coker's close on the condition of his allowing a foot-path through the adjoining Dovehouse close. (Dunkin's History, published in 1816).

A spring of water in the village of Bigenhulle had been long supposed to possess healing qualities. The monks adopted and encouraged this popular belief, only teaching that, not demons or good spirits but God Himself presided at the waters, and employed them for the cure of sickness in all such persons, as had qualified themselves to take advantage of this benefit. In other words they connected this spring with religion, dedicating it to their Patron Saint, St. Edburg, and calling it "*St. Edburg's Well*."¹ A long sward of grass led straight from the village to it, mentioned in 1282 as "*Seynt Edburge's Greneway*,"² and for many a generation this was trodden by the sick of all conditions, who, after performing their devotions and making their offerings in the Priory or Parish Church, resorted to this well, notwithstanding the many edicts, especially one of Oliver Sutton, the Bishop of the Diocese, which at this time were issued to forbid "Well worship or a fond running to be cured at wells."³

IN THE XIV CENTURY.

The following inquisition was taken after the death of Henry de Lacy, the lord of the manor:—"Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, deceased. Inquisition at Oxford, 19th Feb., 4 Edw. II, [A.D. 1310-11]. He held the Manor of Burncestre for term of his life by the "law of England, of the inheritance of Margaret his wife, formerly Countess of Salisbury, as of "the honor of Walyngford, by knight service: in which there is a capital messuage with a "fishpond, worth yearly 10s., and one dove-cote worth yearly 2s. 160a. arable land, 40s. (3d. "per acre), 16a. meadow 48s. (3s. per acre). A several pasture, 2s. One wood, the profit "whereof is worth yearly, as in underwood, 6s. 8d. A market every Friday, worth yearly "20s.—Total, 6l. 8s. 8d. And there are 22 free tenants, who render yearly 75s. 8d.; 20 vil- "lans, 100s. 10d., and their works in summer and autumn are appraised at 20s. And they "give of certain tallage at the feast of St. Michael 26s. 8d. Pleas and perquisites of the "Court, yearly 5s.—Total, 11l. 8s. 2d."⁴

¹ The position of this spring is defined in 1399. (Translation): "Memorandum that the foregoing furlong lies "between Oxenford-wey and the foresaid furlong of Over Nyne- "acre, and abuts at the lower end on Nether-Stanford. Thence "it goes on to the furlong of Nether Stanford, thence beginning "near a certain small moor lying at the end of a certain footpath "called Saint Edburg-wey, for here the fields of Bury-end and "Kyng-end divide.

Dr. Kennett says in 1695. "A spring or fountain head called "S. Edburg's well, which rises in the W. part of the common fields "belonging to King's End.—But since the Reformation our Saints "lost their honour, and the waters their supposed virtue. So as "the current of S. Edburg's well by long neglect was stopped up, "till in the year 1666, being a dry summer, by the advice and care "of Mr. John Coker, gent, the head of it was opened, and cleansed, "at which time it gave such a sudden and great supply of water "that had the old adorers now lived, this should have been "esteemed another miracle."

Mr. Dunkin says:—"From this circumstance the spring "obtained the name of "New-found Spring," which it still re- "tains. This well is situated a short distance N. of a barn, &c., "erected on the enclosure of the field now in the occupation of

"Mr. Reynolds, and may be noticed as the head of the adjoin- "ing rivulet. A few years ago it was generally admired "as a clear and beautiful spring, but when I saw it last (in 1815) "it was nearly choked up with weeds, and the surrounding ground "a perfect marsh."

² "It is now by corruption called Eadburg balk, i.e., "The "Edburg way balk," it running as a greenbalk between plough- "ridges on each side. It begins at the W. part of King's End in "a narrow passage between 2 houses of Mr. John Coker;—it "extends half a mile in length leading to no other place, but "directly where it terminates, the head of the spring—it being "once a high way, no propriety is yet claimed of it, but by custom "the grass or profit of herbage is allow'd to the tithing-man of "King's End." (Kennett's P.A., Anno MCLXXXII).

"The narrow passage between the houses in King's End as well "as the road now used as a footpath to Middleton, was orig- "inally made for the sole purpose of visiting this well." (Dunkin's History).

³ See Hammond's note on New Testament, Col. II, v 23.

⁴ Tallage was a tax imposed on their tenants by lords of manors. It was sometimes fixed and certain, and sometimes at the arbitrary pleasure of the lord.

"They say that the Prior of Burncester held of the aforesaid Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, on the day of his death the site of the aforesaid Priory of Burncester, with 4 carucates of land, 20 acres of meadow and one water-mill, with other appurtenances, worth yearly £40, and with the Church of the same town, to his own uses, which is worth yearly 30 marks; and with the manor of Wrechewyk, which is worth yearly £20, in pure and perpetual alms."

The first resident tradespeople amongst a growing population were concerned with the means of living. A butcher and baker settled here early. In days when tea and coffee were unknown, and wine was too dear for ordinary use, a mild kind of beer and ale formed the common drink of the people. Some beer brewers and alewives therefore were among the earliest tradespeople, the brook being convenient for the supply of water. A cloth manufacturer (now called a draper) supplied a rough material for clothing, and a tailor was at hand to fashion it into garments. A rough mason built and repaired such buildings as were made of stone, and a carpenter those of wood. But as the wants of the inmates of the Priory often exceeded the powers of the local tradespeople, many necessities were still only obtainable from the great fairs of the country.

The way to London was, and until the XVIII century continued to be, along the Roman road as far as Stratton, whence it turned off by the road now leading thence to Marsh Gibbon, Grendon, and Aylesbury. Once every year the Prior, or one of the Canons, with a guard of 3 men, travelled along this road to lay in a stock of such things as the great town supplied, the market there being always open. These were conveyed by boat to Henley-on-Thames,¹ and thence to Burncestre on pack horses, or in later times in carts. Many articles, such as salted fish, sadlery, ironmongery, cloth, silk, linen, ink, parchment, paper, and drugs were purchased at the famous fairs of Stourbridge ("Sterusbrugge fair")² within the parish or liberty of Barnwell near Cambridge, which lasted from Sept. 18 to 29 in each year, and of the North Hundred of Oxford (St. Frideswide's fair) held at the beginning of the same month. Glaziers, painters, and slate layers were only obtainable from the neighbouring towns of Banbury, Aylesbury, and Thame. Skilled workmen in iron came from Middleton and Charlton; wool was sent to Aynhoe to be dyed in 1326; leather bottles for keeping ale were obtained from Woodstock in 1412; cloth was bought at Great Tew, and upholstery at Higham Ferrers, in 1425.

Persons connected by birth or descent with this village had before this time gained their personal freedom.

"William de Bister, &c., held in Finemere one knight's fee of the fee of the Earl of Gloucester."³

"Weston.⁴ Juliana de Burncestre holds j virgate, &c. Nicholas Burncestre holds j virgate, &c."

¹ "To carriers (portitoribus) hired at London for the things aforesaid so bought 3d. Carriage for the said things from London to Henle by water, as in wharfrage at London and Henle; and also carriage of one "mortarium" with almonds with the said things, and from Henle to Burcester, 5s. 1d." (Priory accounts).
Henley was the furthest point to which the Thames was navi-

gable, before locks were erected.

² For a description of this fair see Professor Rogers' "History of Agriculture and Prices," Vol. I, p. 141, and vol. IV, p. 155.

³ Testa de Neville about 1210.

⁴ Hundred Rolls 1279.

OXON VILLA.

"Margery de Burencestre holds one tenement in demesne in the same village, in the parish of All Saint's, which was Oliver le Seynt's her late husband's, and she holds it in chief of the Prior of St. Fredeswyde by paying to the same v^o., and it is worth ij m. Also the same Margery holds one area in the same village in the parish of All Saints of the same Prior for xij^s."

"Also Phillip de Eu receives of 2 houses of Margery de Burencestre in the same parish (All Saint's) xlij^d; by what warrant we know not."

LUTLEM (LITTLEMORE.)

"Margery de Burencestre holds one vacant place by paying to the Prior of Merton xxxii^d. "It is not known in what way, and it is not worth more."

It was probably a descendant of the latter, who now rose to eminence among the citizens of Oxford. The name of "William de Burncestre" or "Burchestre," first Bailiff, then Mayor, of Oxford, appears as a witness to several charters from the year 1312 to 1333. There is also mention of his son "Nicolas de Burcestre," to whom a bequest of some property in Oxford was made in 1337.¹

The Village Hospital, established in the previous century, had now abandoned its care of the sick, and become the home of a monk. Besides the monks who associated themselves in communities, there were others who preferred a solitary life. These latter had been at first called Eremites or Hermits, but in the middle ages they had lost all claim to the title, which they still retained. They professed seclusion from the world, but many had now ceased to reside in lonely spots, and had made towns and large villages, and the chief thoroughfares of these, their dwelling places. At first they had lived alone, but now they generally had residing with them a chaplain to assist them in the daily offices of their domestic chapels, and perhaps a servant to wait on them. They were not the misanthropes or half-crazed enthusiasts, such as modern ignorance has pictured them, but sober-minded, civilized men, living in comfortable houses of wood or stone, eating common food, wearing a russet gown but little distinguishable from the dress of the peasants and artisans around them, taking walks abroad, receiving the visits of friends, holding free communication with their fellow-men, possessors of estates or recipients of pensions and charitable gifts. Such a medieval solitary² lived for many years in the Hospital of this village, which then changed its name to that of "*The Hermitage*," and another on the top of Muswell Hill.

About the middle of the xivth century, amid the many social reforms, which marked the reign of Edward III., Nicholas Jurdan, the only one of the hermit priests, whose name has come down to us, conceived the idea of restoring this house to its original purpose. To this end he obtained in 1355 the following license:—

"The King to all, &c. Know ye that of our special favour we have granted and given, "for ourselves, and for our heirs, as far as in us lies, a license to Nicholas Jurdan³ of "Burcester, Hermit, the Warden of the Chapel of St. John the Baptist of Burcester, that "he may found anew at Burcester an Hospital for the reception of poor and sick persons, "to the honour of God, and the glorious Virgin Mary, His mother, and St. John the "Baptist; and that he may add to it 100 shillings of land and rent with their appurtenances

1. Calendar of Charters, &c. (Turner and Coxo) in the Bodleian Library. Rev. E. I. Cutts, 1872.

2. See "Scenes and Characters of the Middle Ages," by the taxation of the ninth in 1339.

"yearly according to their true value, except the lands, tenements, and rents, which are held of us in chief, to have and to hold for the same warden and his successors, towards the support of the same, and of a Chaplain to celebrate the divine offices daily for ever in the aforesaid Chapel, for our own health, and of Philippa Queen Consort of England, and of Edward Prince of Wales, our most dear son, while we live, and for our souls, when we have departed this life, and the souls of all the faithful departed, the Statute of Mortmain notwithstanding. Witness the King at Westminster, the xvth day of May."

There is nothing to tell whether this good intention was ever carried out. The Hermitage certainly remained for 2 centuries after this time, but it is doubtful whether the successive occupants of it were ever able to do more than provide for their own wants.¹

Village life at this time presented few noteworthy features. The holding of the Courts Baron for the conduct of all business connected with the land, and of the Courts Leet for the correction of moral offences, were the chief incidents, continually recurring, which served to break its dull monotony. Every manor in England had its court, and thus two separate manorial courts were held in Berncester. One by the Lords of the Manor of Wallingford had come down from Saxon times until the first half of the xvith century² and then it was continued by the Lords of Ewelme Manor until recent times, but no records of its proceedings have been preserved. The Priory also held regular courts, and the records of many of these, through a period of 120 years, are still extant.³ They are in the usual form, and contain the usual presentments of all manorial courts of this period.

From a terrier⁴ taken in 1399 we gather an exact description of the names and divisions of the land surrounding the village, as they existed at that time. Starting from Ealdford the land extending Northwards and Westwards to the bounds of the manor was called "The North Felde." The part nearest the village took its name from the old Roman road, called Oxenford-wey, and was known respectively as Overwey, Middlewey, Netherwey Furlongs. The original name of this road was retained in Stret-furlong, adjoining which was a piece of land divided into 3 parts, Over, Middul, Nether, Nyneacre. A wooden cross, painted white, was set up here, probably by the monks of the Priory to mark the direction of their daily walk across the open country to Bigenhull House Chapel, called Whitecroys,⁵ (the origin of

¹ In 1412 the Priory accounts mention an alms of 4d. given to the Hermit.

² Constant mention of the Steward of Wallingford's coming, when he was received as a guest at the Priory, is made in the Bursar's accounts. See those of 1320, 1327, 1346.

At the beginning of the xvth century several manors were annexed by King Henry VIII. to the manor of Ewelme, after that manor had been escheated to the Crown, on the attainder of John de Pole, Earl of Lincoln. The Lords of Ewelme Manor from that time continued the courts here. Their great court was always held on Easter Monday in each year, and those inhabitants of the town, who failed to attend it, were usually fined 1d. or summoned to Ewelme. Mr. Dunkin, writing in 1816, says "it has been discontinued for many years."

³ These records are preserved partly among "The Burcester Rolls," and partly among "The Augmentation Records," in the Public Record Office in London. Among the former are those of the years 1287, 1288, 1309, 1357, 1362, 1373, 1392; and among the latter those of 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1358, 1403, 1404, 1405.

The Index of Court Rolls at the Record Office (made about a

century ago) mentions some "Court Rolls of Burcester, temp. Hen. VIII. and Edw. VI.," but it appears that since that Index was made, the whole series of Court Rolls referred to in this Index has suffered much from losses. No Burcester Rolls of the reigns mentioned can now be found, but only those of the years given above, namely:—

1st Roll—14, 15, and 16, Edw. I.

2nd „ —31, Edw. III.

3rd „ —4, 5, and 6, Hen. IV.

which are not mentioned in the Index.

⁴ Of the lands in Burcester belonging to the Priory, given in Kennett's P.A., under this year.

⁵ "Deinde transeundum est ad furlong ultra superiorem viam quæ ducit usque albam crucem, &c."

"Mem. quod istud precedens furlong jacet inter Campum de 'Berneestre Kyngende et furlong ultra superiorem viam, ut prædic- tum est superius, qua itur versus albam crucem, et buttat versus "Burncestre in inferiorem Nyneacre." Terrier. See Bursar's Accounts of 1447.

the present "Whitelands.") The Northernmost part of this field was divided from Buckenhull manor by a footway, called Heyward's Path,¹ its higher parts being called Blakelond ("Longe and Schort Blakelond Furlongs.") and its lower Imbelowe ("Imbelowmere and Nether and Over Imbelowe Furlongs.") An acre cultivated for peas was called Pese-furlong. In the part of this field, which lay S. of the Oxenfordweye, a ford through a stream called Stanford, the stoneford, gave its name to some adjoining land (Longe and Schort Stanford, Overe and Nethere Stanford); and a spring called Goldwell, to some other land (Nether and Over Goldwell-hull). A filthy road or footway hereabouts was named Lousmonger's path.²

In this field the Priory possessed 153½ acres and 3 butts;³ the two Lords of Caversfield and their tenants had rights of common, and the Lord of the manor of Burncestre 2 separable pastures.

The land reaching from Ealdford Eastwards to the Priory was called "The East-felde." Some ends, or small pieces, of arable land, called Buttes,⁴ touched this end of the village. Beyond these a windmill had been recently erected, giving its name to an adjoining piece of ground (Mulle-furlong).⁵ The land beyond this was known as Stadelf's-furlong and the Westmore.⁶ To the S. of the Roman road here known as Stratton-weye, a long flat piece of land nearest to it was called The Slade, and beyond this to the borders of the manor the land was distinguished by the various names of Gurdull, Grenehull, Holewell, Gedysfurlong, Long and Schort Cutteswurthe, Nether and Over Long Copperlowe, Ast Longland, Oddelott acres or yerds, Stratton Stones, &c. The land nearest to the village in this field was called Bury-pate and Woweland. A farm road called Ruggeweye⁷ (the ridge way) led thence to the land beyond, which was divided into Harry-furlong, Puffe's-furlong,⁸ Puffe's acre, St. Edburg's⁹ acre. Further South the land on either side of Langeton-weye was called Benhull-furlong, Longe, Schort, and Nether Keycroft. Beyond this the pasture land towards Langeton and Wrechwic was divided into Morebrigg-mere or mede, Twyford-mere, Stodefurd-furlong, Longeland-furlong, Gostyhook-furlong. The stream dividing this land from Langeton manor was called Gyldyche. A meadow of 5½ acres adjoining the Priory was called Horscroft, and an acre near the mill Mulle-acre. The virgate of land situated here, which had been given in 1214 for the maintenance of a lamp in the Priory Church, was called Lampdych, and another piece of land here measuring 2½ acres, also belonging to the Priory, was called Haralde's pece. The Prior of Berncestre, and the Abbot of Westminster as Lord of the manor of Langeton, and their tenants, had rights of common pasture in this field.

The land to the S. of the village, between it, and Wrecwick, was called Langeford-feld, its parts being distinguished as Langford-furlong (containing xvii acres) Coubrugge-furlong, Wythyes,¹⁰ &c.

¹ Near it was a meadow, called Heyward's mere, because it "belonged to the office of the lord L'estrange's heyward."

² Surnames were occasionally taken from this smallest and most repulsive of insects, as e. gr. Nicholas le Lus, &c.

³ Summa acrarum quas Prior et Conventus de Burcestre habent "ir boreali campo de Burncestre in Bury-end CLIII acrae et dimid "et III buttæ." (Kennett's P.A., quoted in Dugd. Mon.)

⁴ "Within the recollection of many of the present inhabitants "(1816) the site of the turnpike" (at the junction of the Banbury and Buckingham roads) "was known by the name of the 'Butts-corner.'"—(Dunkin's History of Bicester p. 16.)

⁵ On the spot, where a mill until quite recently stood in

ruins. "Memr. that this aforesaid Mulle-furlong lies between "——— of Caversfield on the one part, and the highway "leading to Stratton on the other."—(Terrier.)

⁶ Mention is made of the water course running down from Westmore brugge—"which water course divides the fields of "Langeton and Stratton."

⁷ Now the footway to Stratton, the remains of the ridge being still visible.

⁸ Called probably from John Puff, the miller mentioned in 1279.

⁹ So called, because it belonged to the Priory.

¹⁰ A low-lying spot, where willows grow.

The xivth century ended mournfully. There followed then and for many years afterwards a series of those checks to prosperity, which occupy a large space in all local history. From the deaths of the Prior and Vicar occurring together in 1349, it seems evident that this town suffered with the rest of the country from the great pestilence of that year called The Black Death.¹ A long course of pestilences then followed almost without intermission until 1399, which carried off nearly two-thirds of the people. The country was so depopulated by these sicknesses that great difficulty was experienced in finding men to till the land, and that this decrease of population was felt here is also clear, for in the reign of Richard II., (1377-99) some houses in Burncestre and Wrecwic are mentioned as remaining vacant.

IN THE XVTH CENTURY.

The bad times lasted long into this century; every five years the chroniclers record "a great death." Murrain, or cattle plague, which swept off even geese from the village green, and bees from the cottars' gardens, destroyed great part of the live stock of the nation. The air was tainted with the decaying carcasses of cattle. Dogs and ravens, which fed on the dead bodies, died, and birds on the wing dropped dead to the earth, as they attempted to pass through the poisonous air. Famine was added to the horrors of war and pestilence.² Traces of this distress are found in the Priory Records. In 1409 "a grievous murrain of sheep and other cattle" is mentioned, and in 1433 many houses were vacant, rents failed, and "many, very many lands in Wrecwic were out of cultivation on account of the poverty of the tenants."³ Decrease of rents is again mentioned in 1447.

As soon as the monks ceased to keep open house for all comers, inns or public houses were established. The first mention of such in this village occurs in the Priory Accounts of 1425. Just before that time the Hostelry of the Priory had been turned into an inn, and in that year there is mention of a second inn kept by a private person. This latter appears to have stood at the end of the Mullewey, near the Bridge, and to have been the same as in later times was known by the sign of The Swan, and was until the middle of the last century the principal inn in the town.⁴ At its commencement it afforded nothing more than sleeping accommodation, and that of the roughest kind.⁵ The establishment of this inn supplied a want, and packmen and traders soon frequented it, setting up on the ground near it, booths

¹ This epidemic came to England from France, and broke out in Aug., 1348, in Dorsetshire, whence it spread to all parts of the country in the space of a few months. The mortality caused by this plague is almost incredible; in Yarmouth 7052 persons died; in London, in one burial ground alone, 50,000 corpses were interred; in the Abbey of Newenham, out of 111 inmates, the abbot and 2 monks only survived. Of the population of the whole country a tenth part only were spared. The clergy were especially exposed to its ravages. In Oxford the schools were shut up, and a fourth part of the members of the University died. In the diocese of Norwich there were 863 institutions to parishes. "In yis yere (Jany. 1, 1348 to Jany. 1, 1349) was swiche a dethe in Norwic "yat yere died of ye pestilence lvii mill., iii c., lxxiiij (57,374) besyd "religius, and beggars." (City MSS. cited by Bloomfield, History of Norfolk.) See Hecher's Epidemics of the Middle Ages, translated by Dr. Babington (Sydenham Society) 1846.

² See "Records of St. Giles' Cripplegate," by Rev. W. Denton, p. 13.

³ "From St. Andrew's Day, 1433, to Valentine's Day 1434, "there was an unbroken frost so that "plura volatilia perierunt" (Wil. Wycester Annals) "and the Thamise and other grete rivers "were so hard frozen that hors and carriage might pass over; and "the next year after began the grete dearth of corn in this land, "the which endured ij year, so that a bushelle of whete was sold "for xld, and the poor people in dyvers parties of the North "countrie eat bread maad of farm rotes." (English Chronicle, Edit. Davies, Camden Socy.)

⁴ It was then turned into a private house, now called The Red House, in the occupation of Mrs. Tubb.

⁵ "In payment for the beds of the servants of the Archdeacons of "Oxon and Bucks, stopping all night at the inn of John Fletcher "once ijd."

and stalls for the sale of their various wares. Thus an irregular market came to be introduced, independent of the old market long held within the village, and efforts were soon made to establish it in due form. The right to hold fairs and markets was vested solely in the King, but it was obtainable from him by different persons, in order that they might profit by the letting of ground to traders, by the tolls levied on merchandize, and sales, and indirectly by the convenience of a market near at hand. In 1440 therefore the following letters patent were issued:—

“The King to all, &c., greeting. Know ye, that out of consideration of the good services “which our dear servant, Robert Brooke, renders, and will render, to us, We, of our special “grace grant to him, the picage, stallage, boothage and tollage together with the assize of bread “and beer of our new market below the town of Burcester in the County of Oxford, with all “the profits, and emoluments, which duly belong to us, or shall in any way whatever belong “by reason of the said market, in respect of picage, stallage, boothage or tollage, for which “indeed we are informed no account has now been given, for the said Robert or his deputy “to have, and to hold, during his own life, enjoying thence such fees, profits and commodities “as shall in any manner belong to the same, paying to us thereof the annual sum of vi^s, viij^d, “to be paid to our Receiver of Cornwall for the time being, or his deputy, &c., &c.”

“Given by the King at Westminster, the 1st day of June,

“By writ of privy seal, and of the date aforesaid.

“By authority of Parliament.”

Around this new market place resident tradespeople soon erected their dwellings, at first nothing better than wooden sheds, afterwards houses, having a storey over the basement, the upper parts overhanging the foundations, with picturesque gable-ends, and signboards swinging over the footways. Some of the old houses, with galleries on their roofs, still remain on the E. side of the market place. A third inn was opened here, having for its sign, as the oldest inns generally had, one of a religious character, “*The Cross Keys*.” This part of the village now changed its name from “Bury” to “Market-End.”

The Tower of the Parish Church was erected soon after the establishment of this market, and a house near it was then opened, where the ringers might practice their art on hand-bells. This publichouse was called from the number of the bells in the Church, “*The Six Bells*.”

IN THE XVITH CENTURY.

That the village continued to grow in importance, and to afford in some measure the convenience of a town, is evident from its being chosen as a resting place of king Henry VIIIth in one of his progresses in September 1526.

“The King has now determined his giests according to the enclosed copy.¹

“The King’s giests from Winchester to Amptell.—Tuesday 21 August, from Winchester to “Thrupton near Lile’s place 6 miles. Saturday 25th thence to Ramsbury, 12 miles. Friday 31 “Aug. thence to Compton, 8 miles. Saturday 1 Sept. thence to Langley.² Tuesday 11 Sept. thence “to Byceter 13 miles; Wednesday 12 Sept. thence to Buckingham 10 miles; Thursday 13 Sept. “thence to Amptell, and there and at Grafton, during the King’s pleasure.”

¹ State Papers (Calendar of) Henry VIII, vol. IV. Pt. 2. No. 2407. Letter from “Fitzwilliam to Wolsey.”

² In the parish of Shipton under Wychwood in Oxon, where as early as the date of the Domesday book, the king had a mural mansion.

The next important event in this local history was the dissolution of the Priory in 1536.

This house had been for three centuries not merely the home of a little society of monks, but the chief establishment in the village giving employment to a large number of people, and an excellent farmstead provided with every appliance for the supply of animal and vegetable produce. At the dissolution this house was broken up, and a great deal of the land in this and the neighbouring villages passed into new hands. The amenities too and charities, which had for many a year flowed thence, came to an end. The stimulus to trade, which the demands of the convent had given, was suddenly stopped; a considerable number of persons employed as domestic servants and out door labourers were at once thrown out of place and work; and the poor were deprived of the sympathy and help, which the monks had long extended to them. To many also it must have been a sorrow to witness the expulsion of the kind friends, who had long lived in their midst, the poor Hermit from his cell, and the stately Prior from his Hall; to hear no more the Convent bell summoning to prayer by day and by night, and then to see sacrilegious hands uplifted to destroy with axe and hammer the holy house, which for 3 centuries had been resonant with daily chant and song.

The sacred tapers' lights are gone,
Grey moss has clad the altar stone,
The holy image is o'erthrown,
The bell has ceased to toll.

The long ribb'd aisles are burst and sunk
The holy shrines to ruin sunk,
Departed is the the pious monk,
God's blessing on his soul."

In 1543 the Princess (afterwards Queen) Mary was at Woodstock, staying there through September and October of that year. On leaving Woodstock she travelled to Grafton in Northamptonshire, and on her way passed through this town, as the entry in her privy purse shows.¹

"Item given to a mayde at Bysset' where my lady grace dyned.....1j' "

The property of the dissolved priory in Burcester and Wrecwick was retained by king Henry VIIIth in his own hands for two years, and then granted to his brother in law Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk.² In 1542, the latter, in consideration of £8 8s. 5d. paid in the hanaper of the Chancery, effected a sale of it to Roger Moore, Esq^r one of the Serjeants of the King's household.³ The property then consisted of:—

288 acres. in the fields of Market End and Langford, 15 in King's End, 12 near The Grange Gate, 75 and some pastures in Wrechwic Green, the rectory and parsonage of Burcester, and other lands and messuages in Arncot and Middleton. The conditions of this sale were an immediate payment of £505 12s. 6d. to the Duke of Suffolk, and a fee farm rent of

¹ Sir F. Madden, 'Privy Purse Expenses of the Princess Mary,' p. 134, Lond. 1831.

² Notitia monastica, Burcester, Oxon.

³ "De literis Regis patentibus Rogero Moore et uxore de

"terris et tenementis pertinentibus ad nuper prioratum de

"Burchester alias Bysseter in comitatu Oxoniæ, sibi, hæredibus

"masculis, concessis. Michael's Records 32 Hen. VIII Rot. 44

"(Jones' Index to Public Records).

£1 15s. 6d. per ann. to the Crown for the land in Bicester and Wrethwic, and of £1 1s. 3d. for the land in Arncot and Middleton with some messuages and woods in Wrethwic, to be held of the king in capite.

The yearly rent of land in Burcester, at this time averaged, for arable 4d. per acre, and for pasture from 5d. to 2s. per acre. The average purchase value of land appears to have been little more than £1 per acre.

The Priory premises now lost their old name, and were henceforth known as "*The Place*,"¹ i. e. The Manor House.

Members of Mr. Moore's family had before this time been resident in Burcester. John Moore in 1525 was the lessee of the lordships of Burcester and Middleton,² and at his death in 1543, left a bequest to the parish Church, his wife having been previously buried there. They were persons of good position, and resided in a house "near the market place." A brass plate inserted in the S. wall of the Church recorded their descent.

"Here lyeth buried the XX day of September, Anno Dom. 1551, Roger Moore, Esquire, a "second son of Moore de la Moore, in the county of Oxford, and Agnes his wife, daughter "and heir of John Husye, Esquire, the second son of John Husye of Shapwicke, in the "county of Dorset, who had isshewe by the said Roger Moore, Thomas, Mary, and Elizabeth; "the which Thomas was one of the Gentlemen pensioners unto Queene Elizabeth, and in her "majestyes service in Ireland: was slaine the tenth day of Maiie, 1574, leaving no isshew of "his body, and Mary his eldest sister married Michael Blount, of Mappedurram, in the said "county of Oxford, Esquire, and had isshewe Richard, Thomas, Charles, Katheryn and Mary; "and Elizabeth his second sister, married Gabriel Fowler, of Tylesworth in the county of "Bedford and had isshewe, Rychard, Mary, Agnes, Elizabeth, and James."

Over all these Armes a fesse dancetty paly of 6 Sa. Gu. bet 3. pentangles, Sa. 9 a chevron bet 3 annulets Gu. a crescent Impaling Barry of 6 Er. Gu. in cheife a crescent over it, 2 crests, the 1st. a X Ar. chargd with a fesse dancetty, the 2d, a Talbot pass^t chained and collard, charged on the shoulder with a crescent.

Ar. four barrs nebulé Sa. 9

- 1 a towre
- 2 2 wolves pass^t within a border, in the cheife bet these 2 coats a crescent
- 3 Verry
- 4 a pale
- 5 a grayhound ramp^t
- 6 a chevron between 3 pha'ons
- 7 as the first. Impaling Moore 9 (1) a fesse between 3 annulets. (2) barry of 6. — Er. Gu. in cheife a cressant. 4th, as 1st. The crest is a wolfe pass^t upon a crowne.
- V^t On a chevron between 3 lyons pass^t gardt 3 crosses 9
- 1 3 barrs Gu. in cheife a Gu.
- 2 Ar. 3 wolves heads rased Gu. a border V^t of castles Or.
- 3 a cheife per pale. and Er. in the first an owle. Impaling Moore 9 the ☉ and Husye. the creste an owle gorged with a crowne.

¹ A manor place "Hearne pref to Antiqs of Glastonbury p. XV. Hence York Place, Duke's Place. Somerset House is called Somerset Place. See Hearne in Leland's Itinerary vol. V. p. 141.

² Grants in December 1525.

"John Mores Lease of the lordships of Burcester and Midlynton, "Oxon, in the King's hands by the death of Thomas Stanley, "and the minority of Edward Stanley, Earl of Derby, from

"the time of the said Thomas Stanley's death for so long "as the premises shall be in the king's hands, at the annual "rate of £35 8s. 6½d. and 8s. 3d. of increase, at which amount "the premises were valued before Thomas Upton Escheator."

Del. Westm, 14 Dec. 17 Hen. VIII. S. B. pat. p. 1.m. 34.

(State Papers, Hen. VIII. vol. IV. pt. 1. No. 1860.)

Mr. Thomas Moore succeeded to his father's property, and was resident either in the Priory, or in the old home of the family. Being connected with the Court he was honoured by a visit from Q. Elizabeth, when she travelled through the town in 1568. The expenses connected with the Queen's reception at the various houses at which she stayed, on this occasion, have been carefully noted in "A Paye Booke made for the space of xii weeks viz. lxxxiiij daies Endinge the xxvth daye of September A^o Re^{mo} Elizabethe Decimo 1568,"¹ and among these are the following.

Charges done at Byssyter Mr. Mores house.²

Carpenters occupied in mendinge of stayers makinge of newe dores and partycions and a prese for the robes wth other necessities.

at xij^d. the daye { Humfreye Parker—iiij daies—iiij^s
Wyllm Awstene —iiij daies—iiij^s
A Clarke
at xij^d. the daye John Dollinge —iiij daies—iiij^s
Sm^a. Pay^d.—ix^s.

(Here the same signatures, as follow).

PROUICIONS.

plaunchbord	To John ffoster for iijc di of plaunchbord at v ^s . the hundreth } —xjj ^s . And for xij sngle gters at iiij ^d . the pece—iiij ^s . }	xv ^s .
nayles	To Wyllm Walls ^r . for one C of double x ^d .ntts xviiij ^d and } for iiijc of vj ^d . nayles—ij ^s . }	iiij ^s . vj ^d .
Landcarriage	To John Towttyp for the landcarriage of the tente w th } other necessities from (?Stowe) to byssyter conteyning xvj } myles at iiij ^d . the myle }	iiij ^s .
Ironworke	To Rycharde Jefferis smythe for iiij payer of henges and } hoks weyng xxviiij ^{li} at iiij ^d . the pounce vij ^s . and for } viiij blake bolts w th Lowpes at vj ^d . the pece—iiij ^s .— }	xj ^s .
	To Gylbarte Polsone Loksmythe for ix whighte bolts in } plate at xij ^d . the pece—ix ^s . for v whighte staples at } ij ^d . the pece x ^d . for vj handells—vj ^s . for ij dozene of } hoks for hanginge—iiij ^s . for xvj sngle stokloks at xiiij ^d . } the pece—xviiij ^s . viij ^d . for xvj stapels—ij ^s . for a stone } crampyt—xij ^d . for his manes atendance the space of } iiij daies at x ^d . the daye—ij ^s . vj ^d . and for his Ridinge } chardges the space of iiij daies vj ^s . }	xlviij ^s . ij ^d .

Sm Pay^d.—iiij^{li}. xx^d.
Sm of this } iiij^{li}. x^s. viij^d.
Booke }

Lewys Stockett.
T. ffowler comptrotr.
humfre lionell mason.
John colbrand carpenter.

¹ Rawl. MS. A 195c fol. 265 in Bodleian Library.

This was one of the youthful queen's stately progresses. Starting from the Charterhouse (where she had slept the previous night), she went to her palace at Havering atte Bower in Essex. There she stayed 3 days (July 14, 15, 16), and thence went to Gidea Hall close by, the seat of Sir Anthony Cooke. Thence she proceeded through Enfield,

Hatfield, St. Albans, Dunstable, Whaddon, Easton-Neston, Charlton, Buckingham, Bicester, Rycot, Ewelme, Wallingford, Yettendon, Donnington Castle, Newbury, Aldermaston, Reading, to Windsor Castle.

² Among the parish papers there is a deed of sale in 1598 "of a messuage or tenement situated near the market place, commonly called 'Moore's House.'"

This royal visit was no doubt a great honour, but one anticipated and accepted with considerable anxiety. To entertain Queen Elizabeth was no light matter, for her favour might be gained or lost by the way, in which this service was rendered. These state visits of her majesty, which were frequent and very expensive, were intended not merely to do honour to the host, but to save the purse of the royal guest. To obtain even the provisions necessary to furnish the tables of the Queen and her numerous suite, cost no little forethought and money, and then amusements of various kinds, occasionally the most extravagant, had to be devised to make the visit agreeable. An allowance was made by the Queen for the payment of necessary expenses, which were all subjected to her inspection, and regulated by her directions.¹

No local record or tradition has kept this visit in remembrance, but we can well imagine the stir, which it created. The preparations and then the entertainments at the chief house in the town; the common talk, diversified with constant news from the places already reached in this state progress; the scene of gaiety in the streets, the quaint windows and gabled ends of houses decked with the brightest colours and the inhabitants of every age and condition flocking together to pay their most demonstrative homage to the stately queen, as carried in a gorgeous litter, or riding on a richly caparisoned steed, she, with her lords and ladies, passed down St. John's Street, through the old town, past the Church, to the Market place, and thence, when her visit was over, to Ricot near Thame, the seat of Lord Norris, can all form a picture in our minds, though they are not written in history.

Mr Thomas Moore leaving no issue, his inheritance of the Priory escheated to the Crown, when (Agnes his mother, surrendering her interest therein), the Queen regranted it to Michael Blount Esq., and Mary his wife, with descent to their sons, Richard, Thomas, and Charles (the said Agnes contemplating a marriage with Sir Edward Saunders, Kn^t.)² Mr. (afterwards Sir) Michael Blount was at that time resident in London, being Lieutenant of the Tower, having succeeded his father in that office in 1564. Some disputes followed about this property.

"Record of proceedings in Chancery in the reign of Q. 'Elizabeth.'"

B. b. 19.

P. 100.	PLAINTIFF.	DEFENDANT.	OBJECT OF SUIT.	PREMISES.
No. 30.	Sir Michael Blount Kn ^t	Thos. Swynerton.	Bill for discovery and injunction.	The late dissolved Priory or Monastery of Bysseter, and lands in Wretchwicke, late the estate of Roger Moore Esq ^r . and Agnes his wife, formerly wife of Sir Edward Saunders, Kn ^t . Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

¹ See "Memorials of Old Romford within the royal liberty of
"Havering atte Bower by G. Terry" 1880.

² From evidence in possession of the Turner Family.

B. b. 27.

P. 100.	PLAINTIFF.	DEFENDANT.	OBJECT OF SUIT.	PREMISES.
P. 126. No. 24	Michael Blount Esq ^r and Richard Blount his son.	Sir John Brockett Knt. ¹ and dame Elizabeth his wife.	Bill to establish title by purchase.	The moiety of divers lands in Bysseter, Langford, Wretchwyke, and Arncotte.
S. s. 5.				
vol. iii. P. 25. No. 52.	Thomas Swyner- ton.	Edward Pember- ton.	For relief against fraud.	Divers lands and tenements in Bicisiter and Wretchwicke.

In 1851 Sir Michael Blount came into possession of the main estate of Mapledurham in Oxon, which has from that time continued in the hands of his descendants. Two years later he built the house still standing there. He died, and was buried in the Tower Church, before 1592, for in that year on the death of his widow, his son and heir Sir Richard Blount obtained a livery of his property.

Sir Richard Blount was resident in the Priory soon after he came into possession of it,² and probably until his death. He was buried at Mapledurham, and was succeeded in his estates by his brother Sir Charles Blount.³

The house attached to the Watermill of the Priory was about this time turned into a private dwelling house.⁴ The fall of the stream, which once turned the great wheel, still continues.

Leland visited Burcester soon after the dissolution of the Priory, and has left a note of what chiefly attracted his attention.⁵ "Good wooddes about some parts at Burcester; there be "Goodly meddows and pastures about Burcester; there is a Commune Market at Burcester "every weke on . . . day. There risythe hard by Burcester a little Brockett, passing "throughe a pece of the towne. It goithe a 4 miles of Otmoor into Carwell river. Some "say that Bassets had his mansion place where the common pound is now, in the middle of "the towne. Some say that Bassets house was, where the late Priory of Burcester stode."

"There is a woody hill 3 miles south out of Burcester caulyd the Earl's Hill; where some "think hath been a Manor Place."

"Studlege Priorie is 3 miles from Burcester in the way towards Oxford."

From Burchester to {
Oxford X miles
Tame IX miles
Bukingham X miles
Banbyri X miles
Brackley VII miles

¹ Among the State Papers Domestic are "June 18, 1589, Notes "by Sir Michael Blunt of the sums to be paid by Sir John "Brockett for the lands of Bicester.

² Two of his children were baptised at Burcester

"Christenings 1606

"September 24th Ffrances Blounte gentlewoman "

Christenings 1608

"July 24th Lister Blount filius Dni Richardi Blount

"Militis." (Parish Registers.)

³ 1609 King James I grants the inheritance expectant (viz Burcester Priory and its lands) upon the determination of the

lives of the three Blounts to Edward Ferrars, and Francis Phillips, their heirs and assigns for ever, by patent dated Sept. 30, to be holden &c., as of the manors of East Greenwich in Kent, by fealty only, in common soccage, and not in chief, nor by knight's service, rendering at Michaelmas and Lady-day, by equal portions 6*℥* 4*s*. 0*d*. (See Farm Rolls Rot. 22 No. 116.)

These parties never obtained possession, but were barred by fines. (Dunkin's Appendix p. 256.)

⁴ Now called "The Priory."

⁵ Itinerary vol VII fol. 7.

In 1547 there were 148 houselyng people,¹ i.e. persons of sufficient age to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, resident in the parish. This implies that the general population had now grown to between 500 and 600 souls. Among these a new class of residents had risen, some of whom had come from Lancashire, after the great revolution in property, which followed the dissolution of the monasteries. The parish Church contains memorials of the chief of them.

On a brasse affixed to the north wall hard by, this

Here lyeth burid the bodye of William Hortt at Tartt, Gent, who deceased the Vth. of July 1584 & also with him lyeth buried Eme his wyffe, who was daughter unto Mr. Ashton of Crostone in the county of Lancaster Esquire, and deceased the VIth of August following 1584 and had issue 2 sons & 4 daughters.

In the south ile, on a brasse on the ground, this,

Here lyeth buried the body of Rafe Hunt who was borne in Lankeyshere in the parish of Chilve, he was a longe dweller in this towne of Bissiter and a good benefactor to the poore, he had 2 wyves Ellen & Katherine, and had issue by Kathrine one only daughter named Anne, he deceased the last day of Novemb. 1602.

Towards the botom of this south ile agnst the wall a brasse, yron, this,

Here lyeth buried the body of Humfrye Hunt and Elizabeth his wife, the which had issue fyve sons & three daughters, and was borne in Cliffehouse in Lankeshire & deceassid the XXIIII day of Maye in the yeare of our lord god 1601.

The increase of population at a time, when no sanitary arrangements were dreamt of, paved the way for the spread of those many diseases, which also marked the XVIth century. "The floors of houses were in general laid in white clay, and were covered with rushes, only "occasionally removed, and then so imperfectly, that the bottom layer was left sometimes for "20 years, harbouring . . . abominations not fit to be mentioned."² The narrow streets were the receptacles for all garbage, while open sewers in the centre of them slowly rolled their contents towards a polluted river. Pure water for drinking purposes was scarcely to be had. Meat was cheap, and this, highly seasoned with spices, was indulged in to excess.³ Intemperance in drink was also sadly common. Horticulture was still in its infancy, and thus there was a great scarcity of culinary vegetables.⁴ A custom also prevailed of wearing immoderately warm clothing, especially on the head,⁵ so that no disease was more prevalent in England at this time than catarrh. It is not therefore suprising that the inhabitants of our towns, especially the indigent classes, should have fallen easy victims to a pestilence, which their own offensive habits had helped to engender and perpetuate.

¹ Chantry Rolls. Housel (A.S.) the blessed Eucharist.

² Letter of Erasmus to Wolsey's Physician.

³ Stories from the State Papers by A. C. Ewald, F.S.A. vol I "The Sweating Sickness."

"Every writer during the XVth and XVIth centuries, who "comments on the habits of English life, adverts to the "profuseness of their diet, and the uncleanness of their habits." (Prof. Rogers, vol. IV.)

⁴ Salads were not procurable in England. It is said that Queen Catherine had potherbs brought from Holland.

⁵ "Now a days if a boy of 7 years of age, or a young man of "20 have not two caps on his head, he and his friends will think "that he may not continue in health, and yet if the inner cap be "not of velvet or satin a serving man feareth to lose his credence." (See Aitkin's Biographical memoirs of medicine, p. 64.)

An inflammatory fever, called "The Sweating Sickness" (*Sudor Anglicus*¹) broke out in this country on five separate occasions. It first appeared in the beginning of August 1485, and before the end of that year it spread over England. It raged in Oxford, whence professors and students fled in all directions, and the University was deserted for six weeks. It reappeared in 1506 (the mildest of all the visitations), 1517 1528. This fourth visitation was so fatal that it has been called "The Great Mortality."² It broke out again at Shrewsbury in 1551, when it raged from April to September, and whence it again spread gradually through the whole kingdom. That this town was no exception to the general bad state of the public health, certainly in the last visitation of this disease, is evident from the Church registers. These (they were not existing in the earlier visitations) show that at this time, when the yearly average of deaths was 16, the death rate was greatly exceeded in 3 consecutive years.

Deaths.

1557	49	42 occurring between April and October
1558	69	38 occurring between April and September
1559	35	

A second attack of this Sickness (or perhaps of the Plague³) occurred in 1578, for in that year out of 59 deaths 41 took place between June and October.

The universal punishment for all, except the gravest, offences, at this time, and for many generations afterwards, was The Pillory, which was a wooden seat, on which for varying lengths of time offenders were put to open shame. In 1554 letters dated May 31, were sent from Queen Mary's Council, directing Sir John Broune, and Sir William Rainford, Knights, to set one Henry Squyer upon the pillory on the next market day at Burcester, and to place on his head a paper inscribed "For sprelinge false and slaunderous rumours, and spekinge "against the quenes hignes proclamation," and afterwards to commit him to gaol, until the next general sessions, at which he was to be further ordered according to the statute "Contra inventores rumorum." In August following the same knights were directed to allow him to be bailed, if they found him repentant, by sufficient sureties to appear at the next assizes.⁴

¹ So called in other countries, because it had its origin in England. It was so local that it did not reach Scotland or Ireland.

² It appeared at once with the same intensity as it had shown eleven years before; was ushered in by no previous indications, and between health and death there lay but a brief term of 5 or 6 hours. Public business was postponed; the courts were closed; and four weeks after the pestilence broke out, the festival of St. John was stopped, to the great sorrow of the people; the king's court was deserted, and the king himself left London and endeavoured to avoid the epidemic by continually travelling, until at last he grew tired of so unsettled a life, and determined to stay at Tytynhangar; where with his wife, and a few confidants he resided quietly, surrounded by fires kept burning for the purification of the air, and guarded by the precautions of his physicians, who had the satisfaction to find that the pestilence kept aloft from this lonely residence. Nor was this plague the only trouble of this year. Through the previous winter heavy rains deluged the country, and the winter seed was rotted. The weather then remained dry until April, but scarcely was the

summer seed sown, when the rain again set in, and continued day and night for 8 weeks, so that the last hope of an harvest was destroyed. Provisions therefore became very scarce and dear, and whilst hundreds of thousands lay stretched upon the bed of death, many perished with hunger. Towns people fled to the country and the peasants to the towns, each restlessly seeking to avoid the dangers, which seemed so imminent. (See Dr. Hecker's *Epidemic of Mid. Ages*.)

It is worth notice that it was at this period when smut was first seen on wheat. Prof. Rogers, *Agriculture* vol. IV. p. 104.

It has been computed that during the five visitations of the Sweating Sickness more than 30,000 persons were among its victims.

³ The Plague, which had so devastated Europe in the middle of the XIVth century reappeared in England from time to time in the XVth XVIth centuries. It broke out at Oxford in 1545, 1570, '72, '77.

⁴ Council Book of Queen Mary, given in the new edition of Kennett's P.A. vol. I. p. 412.

The register of the Archdeacon of Oxford's Court in the year 1584 records the presentments of the Churchwardens against "Richard Sherborne de Bisiter for shearing of "sheepe on the Sounday; Thomas Hall of the same place who confesses that he did but "helpe his neighbore, who had his sheepe in despaire; William Jans de Bignell; Marmaduke "the servant of Thomas Clemens de Bircester; William Herberd of the same place, miller, "and John Geffes, de Biceter, who confesses that he did sheare a cupple of Sheep one "Sounday last."

On May 9 of the same same year "James Potter de Burcester was pronounced contumacious "and under penalty of excommunication," and on May 16, by his representative William "Hookham, he asked for the benefit of absolution which was granted to him, when he was "restored to the congregation of the faithful."

"Burials 1590. Nov. 21, a straunger, who was murdered in the field." (Church Register.)

A M.S. paper traces the descent of the manor of Burcester from Richard de Camville as follows.

"The last named baron, dying 16 John 1215, left the manor of Bicester with the patronage "of the Priory to his daughter, Idonea, who carried them in marriage to William Longspe, "who was slain in battle 35 Hen. III. 1251. William, his son and heir, gave them as a "marriage portion with his eldest daughter Margaret, to Henry Lacy, Earl of Lincoln 41 "Hen. III. 1256, who dying, 5 Edw. II, 1312, left it to his daughter Alice, Countess of "Lincoln, first the wife of Thomas of Lancaster, and afterwards of Eubolo le Strange, which "latter dying, 9 Edw. III. 1336, she left them by settlement to her cousin, Roger le Strange "of Knockyn, 22 Edw. III. 1348, who dying 29 July, 23 Edw. III. left the manor of Bicester "to Roger his son, who dying 26 Aug 6 Rich. II. 1383, left it to Aliva his relict, who "dying 20 Jan. 1386, it passed to John le Strange their son, who dying, 22 Rich. II. 1398 "left it to Maud his widow, who, dying, 20 Sept. 5 Hen. IV. 1403, it passed to Richard his "eldest son, who, dying, 27 Hen. VI. 1449, left it to John his son and heir, who, dying 15 "Oct. 17 Edw. IV. 1477, left it to Joan his daughter and soie heiress, who carried it in "marriage to George Lord Strange, 22 Edw. IV. who dying, 5 Dec. 3 Hen. VII. 1487, left "it to his son Thomas, Earl of Derby, who, dying 24 May, 13 Hen. VIII. 1521, left it to "Edward his son, and successor, who dying 24 Oct. 14 Eliz. 1571, left it to Henry, Earl of "Derby, his son, who, dying 35 Eliz. 1594, left it to his son, Ferdinand, who, dying without "male issue 36 Eliz. it passed to William, his brother, who succeeded him in his title and estates."

This William Stanley, 16th Earl of Derby, two years after he came into possession of this manor, sold it. The deed of sale is dated June 29, 39 Eliz. 1596, and the terms of sale were a lease of 10,000 years for a ready payment of 750^l. The following (attached to a lease of the bailewick in 1669) is among the papers in the parish chest.

³ Formerly in the possession of Sir G. O. P. Turner and Bullington and Ploughley Hundreds. transcribed in appendix No. I. of Dunkin's History of the

The names of the Earle's of Derby's Tenants, which purchased the manor of Burcester als Bisster of the sayd Earle, and their rent at the time of purchase (1596)

	£	s.	d.	q		£	s.	d.	q
1 John Lacey	02	15	06	00	18 William Wirbin	00	16	08	00
2 Thomas Wilson	02	10	04	00	19 Thomas Wilson	00	04	00	00
3 William Walcote	00	11	04	00	20 John Egerman	00	05	00	00
4 Edmund Boddicott	03	02	00	02	21 Thomas Sutton	00	06	00	00
5 Thomas Clements	00	10	00	00	22 Henry Johnson	00	08	08	00
6 Walter Hunt	01	07	02	00	23 John Scott	00	04	02	00
7 John Foster	00	10	00	00	24 Peter Johns	00	04	00	00
8 William Lynny	00	03	04	00	25 Michael Steell	00	06	08	00
9 Rowland Mortimer	00	05	02	00	26 George Taylor	02	06	08	00
10 Widow Jones	00	06	04	00	27 Widdow Edwards	00	19	00	00
11 John Wayde	00	02	08	00	28 Edward Roberts	00	11	03	00
12 John Hudson	00	15	02	00	29 Edward King	00	11	03	00
13 William Evesham	00	09	02	00	30 Ralph Hunt	00	13	00	00
14 Widow Lynny	00	04	00	00	31 Humphrey Moore	00	12	00	00
15 William Shenvington	00	08	00	00					
16 Edward Willing	00	14	08	00					
17 Roger Sumner	00	07	00	00					
						23	01	02	02

The nominal purchasers were Thomas Wilkins merchant of London, and Thomas Clements yeoman, of Burcester, but the real purchasers were mostly the holders of the separate properties. Several deeds of assignments from the nominal to the real purchasers are preserved among the parish records.

A few years after the date of the lease Lord Derby conveyed the reversion in fee simple of the manor to certain persons in trust for all the persons interested in that lease, but a claim was subsequently started by Thomas Clements¹ and his sons to the manorial rights and profits. This led to a great parochial strife, and to various actions at law. An order was as last obtained from the Court of Chancery to refer the question to arbitration, and by a decree, dated April 1st, 3 Jas. I. 1605, it was decided that the original intention of Lord Derby's grant of the reversion of the estate for the benefit of the purchasers must be executed, and that the royalty of the manor, together with the profits of the Court Leet and Court Baron, belonged to them, and not to any other claimant.² Thus certain peculiarities affecting this property have followed, (1) No individual can ever again be entitled to be styled lord of Bicester manor, unless he brings into his own hands the original

¹ He was a person of position in the town, bearing a coat of arms. At the Herald's visitation of 1634, Richard Clements, the then head of the family, disclaimed arms, and was declared "no gentleman." A memorial to his wife is mentioned in the Church notes of 1660.

Against a pillar not far off a table of black marble, thereon this in golden letters.

Anne Clements the wife of Mr. Richard Clements, by whome he had 4 sons, George, Richard, Thomas, Benjamin; & 6 daughters, Elizabeth, Anne, Grace, Anne, Judith, Grace. She departed this life the 28th of May Anno Dni 1652, of her age 39.

Reader, as in a glasse thou perfectly may see

How all things here below uncertaine bee.

She was her husbands, children, parents sole delight

By deaths impartiall stroke is taken from you quite.

² Various depositions and queries, and other documents connected with the proceedings in the Court of Chancery are still preserved among the old parish records. Among these are letters patent from James I dated at Westminster 29. May, 7 of his reign being a commission to Richard Clarke, gent. John Lacy, gent. Richard Mortimer, gent. William ——— Edward Kinge and Thomas Kinge, to arrest Thomas Clement.

No lawyer had as yet taken up his residence in the town. Among the parish papers there is a quaint letter from H^e HeyLyn, dated "Burford this XVIIIth of December 1611," and addressed "To his verie loving friends Mr. George Maunde, Mr. Richard "Clarke and other his friends, the tennaunts of Bicester," in answer to a complaint made about 5^l supposed not to be accounted for in his bill of the costs in this case.

estate. (2) The manorial rights consisting chiefly of the site and profits of the market, of the stone and mortar pits and of the waste land have been placed under the charge of a Bailiff, the estate being therefore called a Bailiwick; (3) a good deal of property is held by a peculiar tenure called Derby hold.

IN THE XVIIITH CENTURY.

As trade continued to increase, the original market place proved quite insufficient for its purpose. Sellers of grain did not then, as now, bring samples in their pockets but the whole quantity, which they offered to dispose of, was placed in sacks in the market place, so that it was no uncommon thing, especially in later times, to see the whole area covered with sacks of corn. In the avenues leading to the market place, women stood with their baskets of butter, eggs, and poultry, while in other open places booths were erected for the sale of other articles. When therefore the practice began of bringing live stock to market, it was necessary to provide extra accommodation for them. These were accordingly penned just outside the market place, on the edge of the open field in a line reaching from one end of the town to the other. Houses of business and refreshment were soon built on both sides of the cattle pens, and thus "*The Sheep Street*" was formed.¹

Bircester (says an anonymous writer in 1622) is at this day a very good market for all "manner of cattle, and well supplied with all kinds of trades, but no corporation, and it is "the richer thereby, for that such as be in debt and danger need not shun it, neither are "any polling officers to draw fees, and sconcing money to enrich themselves and impoverish "others, which maketh a market town to flourish so much the more. Yet in Bister I can "observe nothing memorable, but a fair Church for the setting forth of God's glory, and the "ruins of an old abbey, now the house of Sir Richard Blount, or of Sir Charles his son."

"This Market (says Dr. Kennett 60 years later) is of great resort, and a good vend for all "country commodities, especially all sorts of cattel, which make the Hairmarket in the Sheep "Street there."

Greater space being thus provided, and trade increasing, a Town House or Hall was erected in 1622,² at the end of the Market place, facing the Causeway.

Soon after the formation of the Sheep Street, more houses were built eastwards of the market place, forming the little square known as "Market Hill." A large house here bears upon its front the date of its erection 1698.

The small coinage of England from the earliest time was of silver, but the silver penny and 3 farthing and half penny and farthing pieces, from their small size and weight, were very inconvenient and easily lost. The need of small change becoming urgent, leaden tokens, generally of mean workmanship, continued to be issued by tradesmen until the year 1613, when king Jas I. granted the privilege of coining copper farthings to John, Baron Harington. This patent was renewed by Chas. I., but the patentees so grossly abused the privilege, by

¹ Mr. Dunkin has confused the old St. John's Street with the modern Sheep Street. found on the back of one of the old writings in the Wallingford chest. (Dunkin's Hist.)

² This date of the erection of the "Towne Eaule" may be

issuing their coins in unreasonable numbers, and of a merely nominal value, that the whole country, especially the counties adjacent to London, was full of them, while scarcely any gold or silver coin of this value was left. The death of the king put an end to this privilege, and the times of the commonwealth, were not favourable for attention to this matter. Accordingly tradesmen began to issue, without authority, their own tokens,¹ small pieces of brass or copper, with a device or name inscribed, as a medium of currency between themselves and their customers; and as these tokens or town pieces, were received again by the issuer, when presented, they became more acceptable in public estimation than the patent farthings still current.

The following were issued in this town.²

- O. JOHN BORROWS IRON — J B
 R. MONGER IN BISTER — J B
 O. THOMAS BVRGES. — The Pewterer's Arms, $\frac{1}{4}$ ³
 R. OF BISTER. 1665. — T M B
 O. GABRIEL BURROWS IN — — — — Arms⁴
 R. BISSETER IRONONGER — G B
 O. THOMAS CLEMENES — The Grocers Arms⁵
 R. OF BISSITER DRAPER — T C
 O. THOMAS CLEMENTS — The Drapers Arms⁶
 R. OF BISSITER DRAPER — T C $\frac{1}{4}$
 O. WILL HUDSON OF BISTER — 2 axes cooped⁷
 R. IN OXFORDSHIRE 1669 — His half peny W S H $\frac{1}{4}$
 O. WILL STEVENS OF BISTER — 3 crowns 1669.⁸
 R. IN OXFORDSHIRE HIS HALF PENY — (Heart Shape) W F S in seven lines $\frac{1}{4}$
 O. JOHN WARRY OF BISTER — 3 pipes 1668.
 R. IN OXFORDSHIRE HIS HALF PENY — (Heart Shape) J M W in six lines.

Similar tokens were issued by almost every tradesman in the country, being a kind of advertisement. Those of Oxfordshire are numerous,⁹ (issued from 27 places), but they were mostly of an ordinary character, three fourths of them being farthings. They continued in circulation exactly a quarter of a century,¹⁰ until they were stopped by a stringent

¹ "Tokens issued in the XVIIth century in England Wales and Ireland by Corporations, Merchants, Tradesmen, &c., described and illustrated by William Boyne 1858. 3 vols.

² O. is the obverse side of the token, R. the reverse, The mark — signifies that what follows is in the central part of the token. The $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ denote the size of the piece.

³ On a chevron between 3 antique limbecks (alembics used by distillers) as many roses.

One of Thomas Burges's farthings has been found this year 1882, in a house at Lower Heyford, just pulled down.

⁴ Probably the Ironmongers arms, on a chevron between 3 rods as many swivels.

⁵ A chevron between nine cloves, three, three, and three. These arms are sometimes expressed by 3 cloves. One or two or

three sugar loaves are frequent devices of this trade.

⁶ Three triple crowns, resting on clouds radiated in base. One triple crown is frequently used.

⁷ Probably the Butchers arms, 2 axes in saltire between 3 bulls heads, 2 in fesse, 1 in base; on a chief a boars head between two branches of holly.

⁸ Probably the Drapers arms.

⁹ Banbury	issued 22	Oxford	issued 71
Bicester	" 8	Thame	" 16
Burford	" 8	Watlington	" 10
Chipping Norton	" 14	Witney	" 23
Deddington	" 4	Woodstock	" 5
Henley	" 11		

¹⁰ The earliest date on them is 1648.

proclamation given at Whitehall on Aug. 16, 1672, for "making current his majestie's "Farthings and Half pence of copper, and forbidding all other to be used."

Of the trades mentioned only one differed from the same of the present day. In the reign of Edward III a company of merchants was formed, who proposed to sell wholesale or by the gross, instead of through retail dealers. These anticipated the modern system of Co-operative stores, and were called "Grossers."¹ The following humorous description has been given of a grosser or grocer of the XVIIth century.² "In country places a grocer comprehended a most extensive dealer in hardware, gingerbread, bobbins, laces, haberdashery, "mousetraps, curling tongs, candles, soap, bacon, pickles, and every variety of grocery, besides "which they sold small coins for money changing. Tea, the staple by which grocers now "make gross fortunes, had not obtained its footing, for this lymph must then have been "beyond the means of most sippers, seeing that in 1666 a lb. of tea cost 60^s and money "was then at a far higher value than in the present century. The multifarious ramification of "these traders justified the application of the term grocers as well as to those 'engrossing' "merchandise, because they sold by the gross. Their more ancient name was 'pepperers,'³ "from the drugs and spices which they sold, a branch which was mostly abstracted from them "not long before the epoch of the Tokens by a seceding party, who were incorporated by "Jas. I. under the designation of 'Apothecaries.'"

The right to carry on a trade was in early times confined to those persons, who had undergone a servitude or apprenticeship. The following was a common form of indenture of the latter, and is almost identical in its terms with the earliest known.⁴

"This Indenture witnesseth that Richard Goldsmith sonne of Will^m Goldsmith, of Bissiter, "in the County of Oxen, Labourer, of his own ffree will hath put himself apprentice to "Matthew Cadle of Bissiter aforesaid, Butcher, the science or trade, which he now useth, to "be taught, and with him after the manner of an apprentice to dwell, and serve, from the day "of the date hereof unto the full end and term of 8 years from thence next ensuing and fully "to be compleated and ended, by all which term of 8 years the said apprentice the said Matthew Cadle "well and truly shall serve; his secrets shall keep close; his commandments lawfully and "honest everywhere he shall gladly do; hurt to his master he shall not do nor suffer to be "done, to the value of 12 pence or more by the year, but shall let it, if he may, or else "immediately admonish his said master thereof; the goods of his said master he shall not "appropriate to himself nor them to any body lend; at dice or at any unlawful game he "shall not play, whereby his master may insure any hurt; fornication in the house of his "said master, or elsewhere, he shall not commit; matrimony he shall not contract; taverns "he shall not frequent; with his own proper goods or any other's during the said term "without the speciall license of his master, he shall not merchandize; from the service of his "master day or night he shall not absent or prolong himself; but in all things as a good

¹ "John Guter, Grossarius" appears in the London city rolls as early as 1310, but it had scarcely become a familiar name of trade until the close of the XIVth century.

"He is wit's pedlar; and retails his wares
At wakes, and wassails, meetings, markets, fairs;
And we that sell by gross, the Lord doth know,
Have not the grace to grace it with such show."

(*Love's Labour Lost*, Act V., Sc. II.)

² By Admiral Smyth, quoted by Mr. Boyne in his book on the Tokens.

³ Or 'Spicers,' spice being the general term for all manner of drugs, which were brought into England by foreign and Venetian merchants.

⁴ See Prof. Roger's *Agriculture and Prices*, vol. III. in which he gives the earliest indenture, which he has been able to discover, dated Dec. 20, 30 Hen. VI. (1451), and written in Latin.

"and faithfull apprentice shall bear and behave himself towards his said master and mistress
 "and all his during the term aforesaid; and the said Matthew Cadle to his said apprentice
 "the science or art, which he now useth, shall teach, and inform, or cause to be taught and
 "informed the best way that he may or can, and also shall find and provide too for his
 "said apprentice sufficient apparell, meat, drink, washing and lodging and all other necessities
 "meet and convenient for such an apprentice for and during the term aforesaid. For witness
 "whereof the parties first above named to these present Indentures have interchangeably
 "set their hands and seals this twenty sixth day of March 1665 in the XVIIth yeare of the
 "reign of our Sovereign Lord King Charles the Second over England.

"Given ands delivered

"in the presence of

"Henry Clopton

"John Southam

"Richard Cross Jun

Matthew Cadle

wm

his mark



The value of property in the town at this time may be judged by the following records in the parish papers.

In 1648 a cottage in Crockwell, consisting "of one low room and a gobell (gable) room
 "with all outhouses, backsides and appurtenances," subject to a yearly rent of 1^s to the
 lords of the manor, was sold for 14[£]

In 1662 the rent of the market was 50[£] per ann. subject to the stipulated payment of
 6^s 8^d to the Crown. This appears to have continued through the century.

In 1665, 1½ acres of meadow, and 1½ acres of ley ground with common of pasture for
 4 beasts was sold for 68[£] but 2 years later the same property only fetched 40[£]

In 1681 a cottage in Crockwell with a yard and garden adjoining was sold for 6[£]

In 1690 The Cross Keys Inn, let in 1680 at a yearly rent of 13[£] was sold for 450[£]

When the troubles of Chas. 1st's reign led many of our countrymen to seek a new home
 in the wild woods of America, certainly one, if not more, of the residents in this town, took
 a place in the great emigration, and he is note-worthy as the ancestor of the well known
 American Statesman, Charles Sumner, of modern times.

"The Sumner family is of English origin. The name was at first Summoner or Somner,
 "the title of officers whose duty it was to summon parties into courts. Roger Sumner died
 "at Bicester, in the county of Oxford, and was interred in the church of St. Edburg,
 "December 4, 1608. William, his only son and heir (from whom descended Charles Sumner,
 "in the seventh generation) was baptised in St. Edburg, January 27, 1604--5. About 1635
 "he came, with his wife Mary, and his three sons William, Roger, and George, to Dorchester,
 "Massachusetts, and became the founder of an American family now widely spread. Roger,
 "the second son of the emigrant ancestor, was baptised at Bicester, August 8, 1632. Marry-
 "ing Mary Josselyn, of Hingham, he had seven children. In 1660 he moved from Dorchester
 "to Lancaster that he might, with other Christians at Lancaster join together for the gather-
 "ing of a church; but, after the destruction of that town by the Indians, he removed to Milton
 "(set off from Dorchester, and incorporated in 1692) where he became the deacon of the first
 "church, and died in 1698. His fourth son, William, was born in 1710, and became, by two
 "marriages, the father of thirteen children. By the first marriage he had Seth, the father

"of Major-General Edwin V. Sumner, who was an officer of the regular army, served in the Mexican war, commanded in Kansas, during part of the controversy between the free state and the pro-slavery men, and bore a distinguished part in the war of the rebellion. By the second marriage he had Job, his ninth child, who was the father of Charles Pickney Sumner, and the grandfather of Charles Sumner."¹

When the civil war began in 1642, the South and East parts of the country were with the Parliament, the North and West with the King. A line drawn across England from Hull to Lyme Regis would have divided the two interests. Thus this district found itself again, as in very early times, a border land between two contending parties.

Their first approach to it was in October in that year at the battle of Edgehill, and the subsequent surrender of Banbury to the King. The royal army then occupied Oxford, and a series of small local struggles followed through the winter. The war was continued in other parts, and it was not until the summer of 1643 that any new movement took place hereabouts. Then however the din of war, heard from afar, reached this town, and a short and rude encounter took place in its streets.

"On Wednesday, August 20, after our (the Parliamentary) army had been clothed at Burton we marched to Waddesdon, where Sir Philip Stapleton, quartered at Wootton Underwood, had advertised that the enemy with 400 horse was at Bicester, 3 miles from him; he therefore very early sent Capt. Robert Hammond, Captain of the Gentlemen of my lord's guard, with 100 horse, for the discovery of their pasture, who found part of them drawn forth into the field to receive them; he thereupon sent a party to charge them, who beat them through the town, and he with the rest followed them about 2 miles, when some of the gentlemen of his Excellency's guard did very gallantly, and then returned. The enemy afterwards fell back, and faced them, till Sir Philip Stapleton with the rest of the regiment, and Col. Dalbien with his regiment, advanced, and made the enemy retreat quite away. This was the first time we saw any enemy in this expedition."²

Ten days later the Earl of Essex passed through the town when he marched rapidly from London with the trained bands to raise the siege of Gloucester.

"Aug. 30, His Excellency the Parliament's Lord General advanced as far as Bicester alias Burcester, which is the direct way from Aylesbury to Gloucester, and lieth 40 miles on this side of that city, so that (if God so please) if there be no interruption to hinder them, he will be near Gloucester by the 4th of Sept. to relieve the long wearied but constant defenders of that city against the perfidious Cavaliers."

The siege of Gloucester was the turning point of the strife, and after it the cause of the Parliament grew strong. At the beginning of 1644 the king was in garrison at Oxford, and occupied Abingdon, Woodstock, and Banbury, maintaining his line of defence upon the river Cherwell, and fortifying Boarstal House in Bucks as an advanced post. Opposite to this line, but at the safe distance of 20 miles and upwards, the forces of the Parliament held Newport Pagnell under Sir Samuel Luke, with a direct communication with their camps at Aylesbury, thus securing the north road from London into Bedfordshire and the eastern associated counties. Both armies sent out their forage parties into the intermediate district, and Sir

¹ From the life of Charles Sumner.

² "Earle of Essex for the relief of Gloucester, &c., printed by order

"of Parliament." Lond. 1643. p. 3.

Alexander Denton, a staunch royalist, conceived the plan of fortifying his house at Hillesden lying about midway between Oxford and Newport as a point d'appui from which the king's troops might act with effect upon the garrisons of Newport and Aylesbury. Having secured the support of the neighbouring town of Buckingham, he established communications with Oxford by a chain of pickets of horse and foot stationed at Twyford, Bicester, Chesterton, and Bletchington.

The first attack on Hillesden House then followed, and upon its failure, a fresh plan of attack was instantly set on foot by Sir Samuel Luke, who collected a large body of men, and marched them to the village of Claydon distant 2 miles from Hillesden, where they encamped on the night of March 3.¹ A part of this force was posted at Padbury, and a strong detachment was sent to Chesterton to intercept any retreat, which the garrison might attempt during the night.²

It was probably on this occasion that, as tradition has long asserted, Oliver Cromwell came to this town, and passed a night at a house in the market place.

The advance of the Parliamentary troops was now causing great alarm in this neighbourhood. Abingdon was vacated, and the rebels took possession of all the country S. and E. of Oxford, Sir William Waller being on the S. and the Earl of Essex on the E. The royal army was massed about the city, most of the foot being on the N. side, and parks of artillery being planted in the field, called afterwards from that circumstance "The Parks." The army of the Earl of Essex, having marched by Oxford in open file with drums beating, and colours flying, within view of the king, was drawn up at Islip, on the further side of the river Cherwell. The next morning a detachment of it endeavoured to cross the Cherwell at Gosford Bridge, where Sir Jacob Astley was in command. The bridge was barricaded with breastworks, and a bastion, but the Parliamentary army essayed to cross the stream both above and below it. They succeeded in crossing in one spot under a heavy fire from the musketeers, who advanced rank by rank, and, after delivering their shots, wheeled off to the right and left, and took their place again in the rear. The rebels reserved their fire, their men falling at every step, but steadily advanced, supported by troops of horse, until they reached the main body of the Royalists. They then fired closing their ranks, their horse charging at the same time. The ranks of the royal musketeers halted and closed up, and the pikes drew close together shoulder to shoulder, till the rapiers of their officers met across the front. The shock was very severe, and the struggle for the moment undecided, but the pikes standing very firm, owing in a great measure to the number of gentlemen in the front ranks, and the musketeers fighting with great courage, the enemy began to give way, and, having been much broken before they came to the charge, fell into disorder, and were driven back across the stream, the Royalists following them to the opposite bank, and even pursuing them up the slope of the hill.³

¹ The spot on the ridge of the hill at Claydon, on which the main body of the troops rested, is marked by a barn still standing, on the wall of which is a brass plate with this inscription

"The Camp Barn

"Around this spot

"The Army of the Parliament

"under the command of Cromwell

"was encamped March 1644

"and on the 3rd of that month

"advanced from hence

"to the attack on

"Hillesden House."

² See "Account of Hillesden House in 1644," by Rev. H. Roundell in Bucks Archæological Society's Record, vol. II, p. 93.

³ This description taken from authentic sources is given in "John Inglesant," a Romance, by J. Shorthouse 1882, vol. I, chap. X.

At the beginning of May, Sir Samuel Luke still commanding the garrison at Newport Pagnel, sent Capt. Temple and his troop of horse to reconnoitre near Oxford, who, hearing of a squadron of the Royalist cavalry at Islip, fell upon them in their quarters about six o'clock on the morning of the 28th, and took, as some say, 40 or, as others say, 10 prisoners, and captured 18 bales of cloth.¹

A little later a second engagement took place in, or close to, Bicester.

"August. A party of the enemy being quartered about Bissiter, Capt. Elliss met with them, and both the parties fought desperately. Capt. Elliss killed one, that charged him furiously, and divers others of the king's party were killed or taken prisoners."

A publication of the times gives the position of the contending parties at the commencement of 1645.²

The King's quarters are—

Buckingham	Straton Audley
Sommerton	Brackley
Winslow	Brill
Bicester	Hadenham
Thame	And some other villages,
Islip	in and adjacent to
Chippingworth	this county (Bucks)

The Parliament's forces are also quartered at—

Alisbury	Stoke
Hartwell	Wendover
Etherop	Elsborough
Newport	Missenden
Winge	Amersham
Bierton	Chesham
Wadsden	Lee
Layton	St. Leonards, and other villages.

Early in this year an attack by the king's troops on the garrison of Newport Pagnel was threatened. To gain intelligence of this Capt. Ellis went towards Oxford to reconnoitre. He soon heard of a party of the king's troops at Bicester, and, perhaps emboldened by his success there the preceding summer, and having prudently first made himself acquainted with their numbers and position, surprised them in their quarters, and took prisoners a captain, a lieutenant, and about ten others, with whom he returned safe to Newport, without the loss of a man killed, wounded, or missing.³

In March in the same year Sir Samuel Luke ordered Capt. Andrewes, another officer of the garrison at Newport, with a small force of twenty troopers to Stowe, near Buckingham, to obtain intelligence. While upon this expedition, Andrewes was apprised of a party of 18 of

¹ "Perfect Diurnal," June 3rd, 1644, and "Mercurius Aulicus," May 25th, 1644. For this service Capt. Temple was called into the House of Commons, when "Mr. Speaker, by the command of the House, acquainted him that the House took notice of this late great service done by him, and the other ser-

vices formerly done by him at Newport Pagnel, and do give him Thanks for it, &c." (Commons Journals, May 30, 1644).

² This information is from a Parliamentary source, given in the Weekly Account, Jan. 1-8, 1645.

³ Weekly Account, Jan. 29.—Feb. 5, 1645.

the King's soldiers lying at Fimmere, and, without halting his men, rode on, and ordered an instant charge. The Royalists taken by surprise fled towards Bicester, and attempting a rally in the open fields near Fringford, were overtaken, and lost their cornet, and almost the whole of their men, who surrendered.¹

On the morning of Wednesday, the 23rd of the following April, a dispatch was sent from the committee of both kingdoms to Cromwell, the now famous General of Horse, ordering him instantly to take the field again, and to stop a convoy, which had been sent by Prince Rupert to assist the King in his passage from Oxford to Worcester. Cromwell at once fixed the rendezvous for his troops at Watlington. Thence he sent Major-General Browne forward to obtain information about the starting of the convoy, while he with the main force followed more slowly to Wheatley. Falling in with some old Oxford Scholars, probably taking their "constitutional," he ascertained that the departure of the convoy was imminent, but learning from other sources that the Earl of Northampton's regiment was at Islip bridge, a few miles N. of Oxford, he hurried off a forlorn hope to surprise this regiment. But when, after a march of more than 25 miles in that day, the main body came up, it was found that through some error the Royalists had received warning, and were gone. Cromwell and his troops remained that night at Islip, and the next morning, Thursday, April 24th, the Royalists, now increased to three regiments, suddenly fell upon him. But the discipline of his men was superior to any surprise. A single troop charged, and the King's forces soon took to flight, vigorously pursued by Cromwell's men, some flying to Oxford, others to Woodstock, and a considerable number to Blitchingdon.²

"The Rebels under the command of Major-General Cromwell with 1500 horse and "dragoons did beat up the Earl of Northampton's horse quarters at Islip, and the towns "adjacent, and took above 100 horse, Capt. Wilmot, and 40 more being slain."

The Royalists, who fled to Blitchingdon, found refuge in a fortified house there, belonging to Sir Thomas Coghill, and kept by a garrison of 200 men under Colonel Windebank. Cromwell summoned the latter to surrender, who, after haggling and bargaining until midnight, at length received permission to depart, leaving his arms, ammunition, and horses.³ These spoils of victory were sent off the next day to Aylesbury, and after garrisoning Blitchingdon House with his own soldiers, Cromwell marched to "Middleton Stonies," (*sic*) towards Radcott Bridge on his way to Witney.

"On June 5 of this same year Sir Thomas Fairfax broke up his quarters at Oxford "and proceeded in search of the king. On that day his army marched to Marsh Gibbon, "and encamped there that night. In his march the General turned out of his way to see "the siege before Boarstall House, where Major General Skippon had lain for some time, "which he summoned and then raised that siege also."

¹ Mercurius Civicus, March 20-27, 1645.

² Oliver Cromwell, by J. Allanson Picton, 1882.

³ On April 25th Cromwell sent a dispatch (dated Blitchingdon) to the Derby House-Committee, reporting how he had in three days marched some 50 miles, fought a battle, scattered the enemy, captured a stronghold, and taken 200 prisoners, besides nearly 500 horses, arms, and ammunition. "This was the mercy of God," he wrote. "His mercy appears in this also that I did much doubt

"the storming of the house, it being strong and well manned, "and I having few dragoons, and this being not my business—"and yet we got it." A story is told that on Col. Windebank's refusal to surrender, Cromwell cried out "Fall on! Fall on, Foot!" when in truth he had no Infantry with him.

For this surrender Col. Windebank was in a few days after condemned as a coward and shot at Oxford.

"1646. Aug. 26. The king lay this night at the Earl of Bedford's brother near Woburn. "Intending the following morning to be at Oxford, his army, consisting of about 4000, were "to be quartered about Bicester.¹

Soldiers continued to be stationed in the town for some years later, a soldier's child being buried in 1646; 2 soldiers in 1651; and a lieutenant in 1655.

Some idea of the privations and hardships of these days may be gathered from the lines addressed to the farmers of Bucks and Oxon in 1643.²

"Your crests are fallen down,
 "And now your journeys to the market towne
 "Are not to sell your Pease, your Oats, your Wheate.
 "But of nine horses stolne from you t' entreat
 "But one to be restor'd; and this yee doe
 "To a buff'd Captaine, or perhaps unto
 "His surly Corporal."
 "Have ye no burthens now? O happy men
 "The twentieth part ye 'ave paid, the fifth, and when

"Your new task masters shal be pleas'd to call
 "And say ye are delinquents, farewell all;
 "New victories coyned to cheat ye every houre,
 "Your purse must bleed, so long as they have power
 "To lye, your taxes to the garrisons
 "The pressing and the slaughter of your sonnes,
 "Secret Benevolence, and to these
 "To top up all, but fifty subsidies."

During the continuance of the civil war every town and village was divided against itself, though the greater part would gladly have stood neutral. The strength of the Parliament lay everywhere in the large towns, and the trading classes; that of the king in the country populations, the great landowners and their retainers. That the popular favour in Bicester sided with the king's cause is evident from the signs given to many inns, established at that period, which were all of a loyal character, "The King's Head," "The King's Arms," "The Crown," "The Crown and Thistle," "King and Queen," and others;³ and from the parish records, wherein the existence of the Commonwealth is quietly ignored, and each year of the restored monarchy is dated from the death of Charles I.

The men who began the great rebellion were for the most part of moderate opinions, both in religion and politics. The Long Parliament, as it was at first constituted, contained but few revolutionists. All were members of the Church of England, and to none probably, least of all to Cromwell, had the idea of a Republic occurred, unless as an utopian vision.⁴ But the course of the war, the king's behaviour, and the divisions of the party gave rise to other counsels. In 1662 there came to Bicester a young man strongly imbued with the doctrines of the Independents. His history is best told by his contemporary, Anthony Wood.

"John Troughton, son of Nathaniel Troughton a clothier, was born in the city of "Coventry; educated in the free school there under Samuel Frankland; became scholar of "St. John's College, ano 1655, afterwards fellow and B.A.; but upon the restoration of king "Chas. II. being ejected to make room for one, who had been expelled by the visitors in "1648, he retired to a market town in Oxfordshire commonly called Bister, where living a "moderate nonconformist, read academical learning to young men, and sometimes preached in "private, whereby he got a comfortable subsistence. Upon the issuing out of his Majesty's "declaration for the toleration of religion dated March 15, 1671, this Mr. Troughton was one "of those four (Dr. Henry Langley, and Thomas Gilbert, and Henry Cornish, Bachelors of

¹ Extracts from "Sir William Dugdale's Diary," published by W. Hamper, Esq., in 1827.

² John Taylor's "Lecture to the People." The writer's view is no doubt one-sided, but it expresses probably the hardships inflicted by both parties in the strife.

³ The common alehouse signs of the Sun, Star, Still, 3 Tuns and Wheatshaf, are portions of the arms of the Distillers, Innholders and Vintners.

⁴ Life of Oliver Cromwell by F. W. Cornish (1882) chap VII. The Independents.

"Divinity, being the other three) who were appointed by the principal heads of the brethren to carry on the work of preaching within the city of Oxon. The place where they held their meetings was in Thames street within the N. gate in a house, which had been built, a little before the civil war began, by Thomas Pun alias Thomas Aires, where, each person endeavouring to show his parts, this our author Troughton was by the auditory of scholars (who came among them merely out of novelty) held the best, and by them most applauded.

"The truth is, though the man had been blind, occasion'd by the small pox, ever since he was four years old, yet he was a good school divine, and metaphysician, and was much commended while he was in the University for his disputations. He was not of so busy, turbulent and furious a spirit as those of his persuasion commonly are, but very moderate: and although he often preached, as occasions offer'd themselves, in prohibited assemblies, yet he did not make it his business by employing all the little tricks and artifices too frequently practised by other hot-headed zealots of his fraternity, viz., by vilifying and railing at the established ordinances of the Church, libelling the conformable ministry, by keeping their meetings at the time when the services and administrations of the Church are regularly performing, &c. He did not, I say, by these and such like unwarrantable contrivances endeavour to withdraw weaker persons from the sacred bosom of the Church in order to fix and lead them in associated defying conventicles. He was respected by, and maintained an amicable correspondence with, some of the conformable clergy, because of his great knowledge and moderation. This learned and religious person died in an house of one of the brethren, situate and being in All-Saints parish, within the city of Oxford on Aug. 20, 1681, aged 44 years, whereupon his body was carried to Bicester before mentioned alias Burchester, and buried in the Church there,¹ at which time Abraham James, a blind man, master of the free school at Woodstock (sometime of Magdalene hall) preaching his funeral sermon did take occasion, not only to be lavish in the commendations of the defunct, but to make several glances on the government establish'd by law (so that an auditor there named Sam. Blackwell, M.A. and Vicar of Bister (a zealous man for the Church of England) complaining to the Diocesan of him, James was glad to retract what he had said before him, to prevent an ejection from his school, which otherwise would inevitably have come to pass.")

This sentence within brackets was in the first edition of the Ath. Oxon. but Mr. Wood has scored out this sentence, and written in the margin "Mr. Blackwell denies this." See his own copy in Ashmole—A list of his published works is given in Wood's Ath. Oxon.

Ten years after the death of Mr. Troughton, his fellow labourer in Oxford, Mr. Henry Cornish, came to settle at Bicester. An account of him is also given by Mr. A. Wood, in the Ath. Oxon. (vol. II. p. 157.)

"Henry Cornish was the son of William Cornish of Ditchet in Somersetshire; was originally a poor scholar of New Inn, and an assistant to the butler there to put on (or enter) battel in the buttery book, and as he had been puritanically educated at home, so more under Dr. Rogers, principal of the same inn. Afterwards he took the degree in arts, and became a puling preacher; left Oxon when it was garrisoned for his majesty; preached among the godly party, and was appointed by the Parliament with Langley, Corbet, Cheynell, for to preach the scholars into obedience to their powers. For which his service he was made

¹ "Burialls 1681."

"Aug. 22. Mr. John Troughton." (Bicester Reg.)

A daughter of his had been buried at Burcester in the previous

year. "Burialls 1680."

"May 21, Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Troughton."

"Canon of Christ Church in the place of Dr. Rob. Sanderson, ejected. After his majesty's restoration he was removed, and preached in these parts as a nonconformist till the five mile act was made, and then retiring to Stanton Harcourt in Oxfordshire, where he was patronized by Sir Philip Harcourt, a favourer of such like persons (as having been educated in their principles by one of the parliamentary generals named Sir William Waller, who had married his mother), he had lived and carried on the trade there for many years, and took all occasions to preach elsewhere, when the indulgences for tender consciences were granted, and did sometimes (after king Will. III came to the crown) preach in an antiquated dancing school just without the north gate of Oxon, to which place many people did usually resort. Afterwards this meeting was translated to a house in St. Ebbe's parish, where it now (1691) continueth, and is chiefly carried on by a certain person, who has received some education in Cambridge. In the year 1690 Mr. Cornish left Stanton Harcourt and translated himself to a market-town in Oxfordshire called Bister, where he now holds forth. So that he who had been a licensed preacher by the blessed Parliament, as it was by the brethren so called, and had been Canon of Ch. Ch., and much respected by those of his profession, while he lived in Oxon as, a godly man, doth now in his old age, being about 80 years old, preach in a barn¹ in the said town of Bister for profit sake² to silly women, and other obstinate people, such is the poor spirit of the person; he died in the 89th year of his age, and was interred the 22nd of that month in the Church of Bissiter aforesaid.³ His funeral sermon was preached by John Oyliffe, Rector of Denton, Bucks, upon which were soon published "Some Remarks on the Life, Death, and Burial of Mr. Henry Cornish, B.D. &c., London, 1699." Then came out "the Sermon" with a preface to rectify some misrepresentations, &c. Both printed at London, 1699, 4to.

A more pleasing, and without doubt a truer description of Mr. Cornish's disciples is given by others. Dr. Edmund Calamy says⁴

"When I had once preached at Oxford, and that came to be known, I was pressed to do the same in several places in the neighbourhood. Mr. Cornish, particularly, who in the Parliament times had been a canon of Christ Church, and a preacher at Carfax, whom I conversed with, when he visited at his friends at Oxford, much desired a sermon of me. He lived then at Bicester, a market town in that county, about ten miles from Oxford, where he had a small but intelligent and sober people, with whom he lived very lovingly, being much respected in his advanced age. His allowance from them was small; but he had some estate of his own, and though he did not live great, yet neither did he live contemptibly. His flock were to him as his family, of which he was the tender and affectionate head. When I complied with the old gentleman's notion, it greatly pleased me to see how lovingly they lived together; which induced me to be often among them afterwards, preaching sometimes once a Lord's day, and sometimes twice, as there was occasion.

Mr. Oyliffe in his funeral sermon says.

"They were as intelligent, good tempered, judicious and loving people as a minister need desire. The good old gentleman was as tender of them as a father, and they

¹ This barn was situated in a yard opposite Coney-lane, in Sheep Street.

² "As to profit sake he was above it having an estate of his own." (Mr. Oyliffe's sermon.)

³ "Burials 1698."

"Dec. 22, Henry Cornish." (Parish Register.)

⁴ "Historical account of my own life" vol. 1. p. 278-9.

"carried it to him with the respect and tenderness of children, and vital religion exceedingly flourished among them."

Hence it appears that no formal secession from the Church of England had yet arisen. Mr. Cornish had celebrated a marriage in 1695 (the first and only one entered in the earliest register book of the Dissenters) and some baptisms (the first being dated Feb. 18, 1695, and the last May 17, 1698), but he had maintained his own and his family's connection with the Church during his life, and in death he asked for no separation from her.¹ But a rent once begun soon spreads, and under new teaching a sect belonging to the Presbyterians was formed, of which Mr. Troughton, a son of the former of that name, took charge. From that time formal dissent in this town takes its origin.

In the XVIIth century schools to teach grammar, that is, to impart what at that time was regarded as a liberal education, had become common in England. Such a school was opened in Bicester about the year 1669,² as a private undertaking by Mr. Blackwell, in the next year appointed vicar of the parish. This school was held in the Chapel on the N side of the Chancel of the Church, the arch into the Church being blocked up, and a floor being introduced to form an upper and a lower room. Several vicars in succession to Mr. Blackwell continued to undertake the mastership of this school, and throughout a century the sons of the gentry of the town and neighbourhood received their early education at it. But when after the death of Mr. Prinsep in 1768, the residence of the vicars became irregular, the school fell into abeyance, and was after a short time closed. A library was attached to this school, which was a valuable addition in days when books were scarce, and from the books presented, and the names of the donors, the school appears to have held a good place among the classical schools of its day.³

Sir Charles Blount was resident in the Priory, certainly in 1627-28.⁴ He was a staunch Royalist, and was killed at the battle of Oxford in 1644, where he was buried. Others members of this family were resident as late as 1646,⁵ but ten years after that date the property was sold.⁶

During the three quarters of a century in which the Blount family possessed this estate two noticeable changes were made. The large brick pigeon-house, now standing in Place yard, was built, probably on the site of a former dovecote, and the old Grange yard was turned into a Bowling Green. The game of bowls became general in England during the Commonwealth and was especially favoured by the Protector and his friends. Cavaliers, when

¹ His daughter was married Sept. 24, 1703; buried Feb. 6, 1710; a son was buried Sept. 9, 1708, with the services of the Church.

² Mr. Dunkin is in error in applying to this school what A. Wood says of Burford, in this county. See A. Wood's account of "Simon Wisdome," in the Ath Oxon.

³ The catalogue of books belonging to the school library still exists, and is inscribed "Catalogus Benefactorum qui aut libros aut quodvis aliud munificentie genus in Scholæ Burcestrensis Bibliotheca contulerunt, 1694."

Seventy-one benefactors are mentioned, several being from the neighbourhood, and 150 books, most of these being classical. The books were preserved in the room over the church porch until its destruction in 1862, and were then sent to the house of one of the

churchwardens.

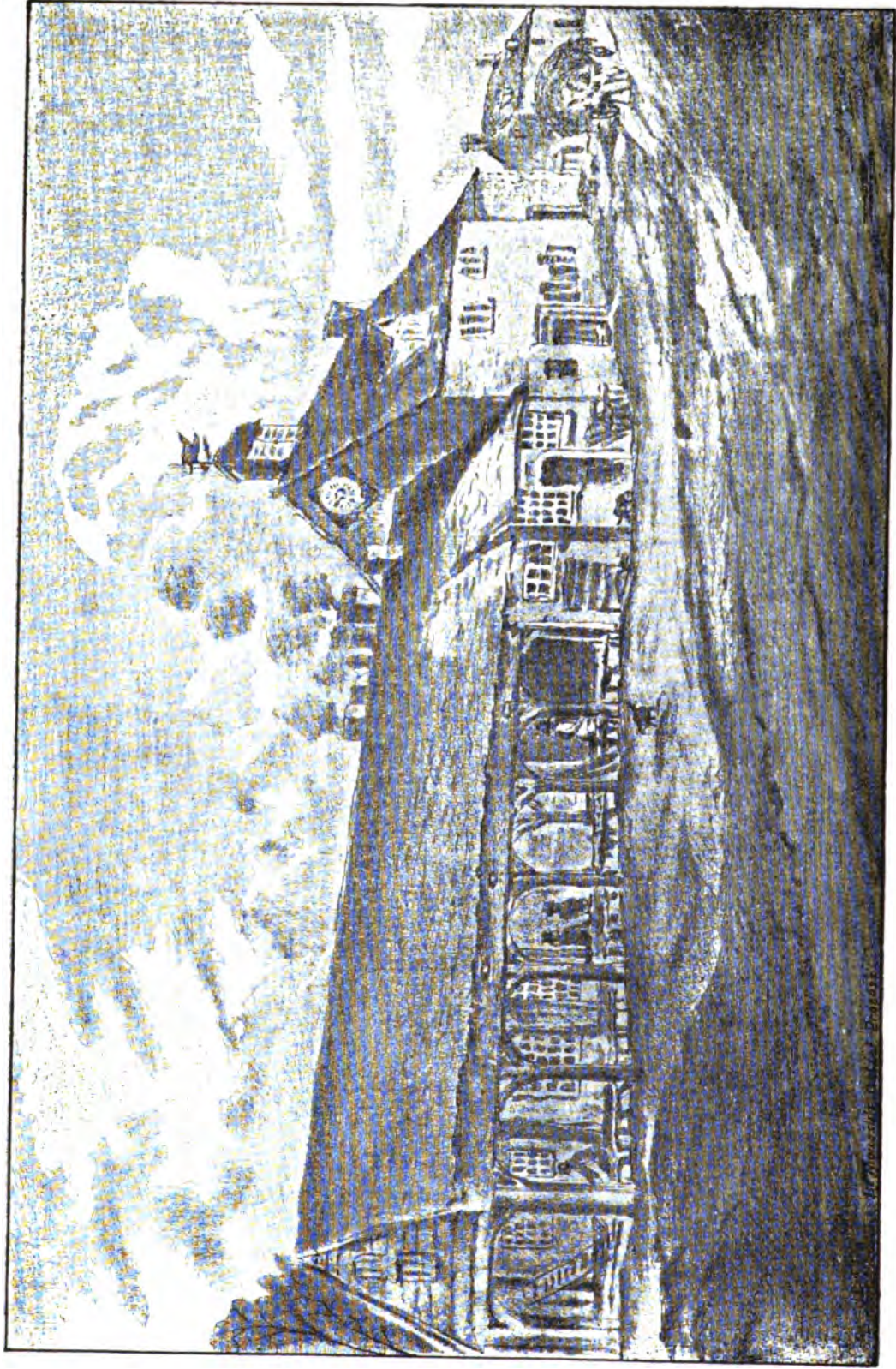
⁴ 1627, 14 Maii Mar. fil. Car. Blount mil. bapt.

1628, 26 Mar. Jana filia Car. Blount mil. bapt.

⁵ 1640, 18 Oct. Edw. Welsbourne fil. Welsbourne Blount bapt. 1646, 27 Jul. Welsbourne fil Welsbourne Blount bapt.

(Extracts from Parish Reg. in Rawlins M.S.S.)

⁶ On Sept. 1. 1621, a license had been granted to Sir Richard Blount, and his brother Sir Charles, the next heir, to alienate this property. No sale was then affected, but after the death of Sir Charles, his heirs Walter and Philippa Blount, carried out the intention, the property having become burdened with heavy mortgages.



SHAMBLES AND TOWN HALL, PULLED DOWN IN 1826.

their fingers grew weary of the dice box and cards, fell back upon tennis. The Puritans abhorring such pastimes clung to quiet bowls and tobacco. From the introduction therefore of the Roundhead game, we may conjecture that during the tenure of this property by Sir Charles Blount, whom the Parliament described as "a Papist and delinquent," it was like the rectorial tithes sequestered, and occupied for a time by some one, who inclined to the Parliamentary side in politics, and the Puritan in religion.

Lord Chief Justice Glynne in 1656 purchased this property for £15,144 5s. 8d., of which £5,000 was paid to Lord Rockingham and £1,500 to Messrs. Delbo and Seyon in discharge of their several mortgages. The whole estate was then producing a yearly rental of £981 12s. 4d. That the value of this property had trebled itself in the course of a century is in accordance with the great rise in the value of land, which took place in, and after, Queen Elizabeth's reign. Mr. (afterwards Sir) William Glynne, eldest son of the Chief Justice, then came to reside in the old Priory Buildings, until, on purchasing the manor estate at Ambrosden he removed thither about the year 1673.

The Town House or Hall built in 1622 was altered and enlarged in 1686, according to the date visible on the building until its destruction. Like all such buildings of that date it consisted of an upper room raised on wooden pillars, with a staircase leading to it from the outside, and its Eastern gable surmounted by a bell and clock. The ground floor was used partly as a dwelling house, and partly as a store place for the stalls and other furniture of the market. Its appearance is represented in the accompanying engraving.

On the E side of the Hall a long shed or range of open buildings for the accomodation of butchers, called the Shambles, was erected. The old Pillory, and Guard House close by, were furnished with a whipping post and stocks.

The following is the earliest known Constable's account, and, though it bears no date, evidently belongs to the times, when the commemoration of Gunpowder Plot was in its youthful vigour, and the practice of archery, some time in vogue in the larger towns, was first introduced into Bicester.

Laid owte when I was Constable.

ffirste I laide owte for gunpowder.....	iiij ^d
Itm for mendynge the Callyver	vi ^d
Itm for matche.....	i ^d
Itm for skowring a head pese and Lyninge yt	xv ^d
Laide owte more upon the viij th daye of October for gunpowder	iiij ^d
Itm matche.....	i ^d
And for caraynge the hernes frome Woodstoke.....	iiij ^d
Itm Laid owte for making the butts ¹	ij ^s
Itm Laid owte for Lyning another headpese which was in plasterers hand and setting to a Lether....	x ^d
Itm Mr. parte Layde owte when Sr. Rychard Shearborns Sone wente up to London and comynge downe againe....	x ^s iiij ^d
the w ^{ch} he willed me to take upe for hime.	

¹ In the reign of Edward IV it was enacted that every Englishman should have a bow of his own height, and that butts for the practice of archery should be erected near every village, when the

inhabitants were obliged to shoot up and down on every feast day, under penalty of being mulcted one halfpenny.

Some traces of ecclesiastical discipline again appear in the records of the Archdeacon of Oxford's Court.

July 9., 1631.

Against Henry Benson
and Hugu Nicholls
of Bisseter } John Ison alleges that the Said Benson beeing a servant, and not
able this dead yeare to procure himselfe apparell by his labour did
therefore for want of cloathes fitting forbear to come to Church,
but hereafter hee intends to frequent prayers and to receive the
Coion. Nicholls to be cited on ways and means.

14 Dec^r 1633.

@ Phillippum James
de Burcester } Ad respondendum—"He appeared and being asked whither hee hath
frequented other pish Churches besides his own confesseth and sayth
that he thought ther had been such an order in this Corte that if
their owne minister did not preach they might goe to another church.
The lord ordered him to acknowledge his fault before the minister
and churchwardens, 22^d inst et ad solvend' feodi.

1634 Nov. 22.

Contra Ricardum Mortimer
sen^r of Burcester } He appeared &c.—answered, and he acknowledges that he doth
sell aqua vite and treacle to such as for their healths sake do
request the same but he doth not open his shoppe windows.
Whereof the lord dismissed him with a monition.

Outbreaks of great sickness and mortality again prevailed. The ordinary death-rate had now risen to about 20 yearly, and the Church registers give the following statistics:

DEATHS.

1607	..	47	..	39	occurred in May, June and July.
1615	..	46	..	36	— between April and November.
1636	.	48			
1643	..	60			
1644	..	58			
1673	..	23	..	6	by Small Pox (now first mentioned.)
1674	..	49	..	21	—
1675	..	27	..	3	—

Soldiers were stationed again in the town during the war with Louis xiv of France, for the Church Registers record the baptism of soldiers' children in 1693,-95,-96; and a soldier's burial in 1698.

"Strange and Wonderful news from Bisciter, a town in Oxfordshire; being a full and true account of a Terrible Tempest of lightning, rain, hail, and thunder, which happened there the 20th day of April last past, and continued for several hours; burnt much corn, some barns and outhouses, and kill'd many cattel; also spoyled several persons and had like to have consumed the whole Town. 1678."¹

¹ Publication of that year in Bodleian Library.

On October 9. 1683 the shock of an earthquake was felt throughout Oxfordshire and the midland counties.¹

It may now evoke a smile to read the following description of what, was two centuries ago an uncommon agricultural implement.

"After harrowing, if it hath been so dry a time that the ground has risen in clods that cannot be broken with harrows, they commonly do it with a beetle or big stick. But a much quicker way is what I met with about Bisseter by a weighty roll, not cut round but octangular, the edges whereof meeting with the clods, would break them effectually, and with great expedition."²

IN THE XVIIITH CENTURY.

"As to the present state of the town,³ in the division of King's-end stands a pleasant and convenient seat of Mr. John Coker, who is now Lord of the manor, but most of the houses and lands in the Market-end are part of the possessions of Sir William Glynne, Bart., whose beautiful seat is at Ambrosden, a village two miles distant from it."

The new century began sadly. In 1707 the small pox again invaded the town, and raged so fearfully that of 68 persons, who died in that year, 42 died of this disease. The town and market were consequently avoided, as a plague stricken spot, and the grass grew in the untrodden streets. This excessive mortality was followed by a very low state of public health and prosperity, for the Church registers show that the number of births was strikingly diminished, in some years only equalling, and in others falling below, the number of deaths.

YEARS.	BIRTHS. ⁴	DEATHS.	YEARS.	BIRTHS.	DEATHS.
1714	39	44	1746	49	55
—15	39	45	—47	37	52
1718	39	45	—48	53	53
1720	30	45	1754	43	56
1723	45	48	—55	39	40
—24	35	41	—56	34	36
1726	42	42	—57	47	52
—27	42	60	—58	37	55
—28	35	57	1762	41	66
—29	38	48	—63 ⁵	45	49
1732	39	50	1766	46	46
—33	47	54	—67	44	45
1738	44	58	—68	47	89 ⁶
1740	40	45	1780	51	63
—41	44	64	1783	48	49
—42	44	45	1785	45	62
—43	36	57	—86	51	52

The continual recurrence of small pox led to the erection of a Pest House in 1752, just outside the town boundaries, not far from the present Railway Station.

¹ Philosophical Transactions, No. 321.

² Plots Natl. History. chap. ix § 79.

³ History of Oxon by Rev. T. Cox, published in 1720.

⁴ A very small addition to the number of births must be made on account of baptisms performed by the Dissenters after the year 1695; but, if the baptisms be made equal to the deaths, the state of the public health is seen to have been very unsatisfactory.

⁵ "June the 19th 1763 it began raining, and continued mostly wet weather till the beginning of February 1764, and a perpetual flood for the most part of November, December, January and the beginning of February, 15 weeks." (Written on the cover of one of the Church Registers.)

⁶ In this year of excessive mortality an infectious fever was prevalent. The Vicar, and two of his daughters, died of it, and many members of families were at this time buried in the same grave.

In 1710, after the impeachment of Dr. Sacheverell before the House of Lords,¹ a considerable outburst of popular feeling was awakened in the country, which manifested itself in violent expressions of loyalty to the Queen, zeal for the Church, and sympathy with the accused divine. When therefore the latter went to take possession of the benefice, to which he had been appointed, his journey became a public ovation. At every town through which he passed he was received with unusual honours, the principal Tory gentry coming to meet him, and others presenting him with gifts of money or other valuables. In this town he met with the same kind of noisy reception as elsewhere, except that as he passed down Sheep Street, when opposite the meeting house of the Dissenters, he was insulted by the owner of that house, running up to the coach with his scavenger or broom in his hand, and, holding the pole in a threatening manner to the window, crying out shame, and at the same time upbraiding the crowds following.²

After the departure of Sir W. Glynne to his new house at Ambrosden, the old buildings, which had formed the various apartments of the Priory, having become ruinous were pulled down, and nothing was left except a portion of the entrance gateway and the hostelry. The site was turned into a garden for the tenants of the latter. The Bowling Green was made public, and a small public house was built near it, and called from it. In 1728 Sir Stephen Glynne sold the estate, together with his other property at Ambrosden, to Edward Turner, Esq.,³ with whose descendants it still continues. The premises called Place Yard were then attached to a farm.

In 1724 a fire broke out among the old buildings in the Waterlane.⁴ In three hours time it destroyed 10 dwelling houses, besides warehouses, malt houses, stables, and out-houses, in all about 159 bays of buildings, and containing great quantities of malt, barley, beans, oats, tobacco, flax, hemp, hay, candles, household goods, wearing apparel, &c., of which the loss was calculated at £2231 15s. 8d. A public subscription was made in the neighbourhood for the sufferers.

This destruction of old buildings led to the further extension of the town by the erection of "New Building's" at the end of the Sheep Street. About the same time a considerable improvement in the appearance of the town was made, many of the old houses in the Market Place, and in and about Sheep Street, being rebuilt, and several of the large unsightly porches, which covered the entrances of public houses, being removed.⁵

¹ The teaching of all parties, and all schools of theology, in the Church at this time was, as it had long been, non-resistance, and passive obedience, to kings. Dr. Sacheverell had preached for three hours before the Lord Mayor and Corporation of London, on November 5th, 1709, a sermon strongly persuasive of this doctrine, but mixed with violent personalities and invectives against many of the permanent Whigs, and especially the Lord Treasurer Godolphin. For this he was brought to a solemn trial in Westminster Hall, and found guilty by a majority of 17, a strong protest against his condemnation being at the same time entered on the records of the House of Lords.

² Diary of Mr. J. Rolls, a native of Bicester, and afterwards resident at Aylesbury.

³ In 1671, king Charles II granted the fee-farm rents of Burcester Monastery, among other annual payments, to trustees, who sold them on April 2, 1672 to George Nicholas, and his heirs. On February 14, 1739 Sir Edward Turner purchased these of the heirs of George Nicholas. (Dunkin's Appendix p. 258.)

⁴ On the ground where the chapel of the Independents was afterwards built.

⁵ Entry in Parish Register, extracted by Mr. Dunkin.

In 1757 an Inclosure Act¹ (30 Geo. II) was obtained "for dividing and inclosing the "common field, common meadows, common pastures, common grounds, and commonable "lands in the township of Burchester, otherwise Burcester, otherwise Bisseter Market-end in "the County of Oxford; and for extinguishing all right of common in certain common "meadows, common pastures and inclosed grounds in the said township."

This common field at this time contained 1200 acres more or less. The old names, which four centuries before had distinguished its several parts, had mostly disappeared, and the only divisions mentioned in the Enclosure Act are Nine Acres or the North Field, "The "little or middle field, and the Clay or Home Field, and the Cow Pasture."

The usual consequences of great reforms, general advantage, and individual losses,² followed this inclosure. The most observable one was the improved cultivation and altered appearance of the land, on the N and E sides of the town.

As soon as personal freedom was thoroughly established in England, a necessity showed itself for making some provision in agricultural districts for the hiring of farm servants. Registrar offices were not known until the beginning of the present century, and so a custom gradually arose for masters and mistresses seeking servants, and servants seeking an engagement, to meet each other at a market or fair in some central place. These meetings established at first for mutual convenience, became in time to be fixed by some statute or regulation, and they were then called "The Statutes," or Statute Fairs (vulgarly "The Statty.") Dr. Plot in 1677 mentions this custom as then prevalent in many parts of Oxon. It was not however until a century later that it was introduced into this town, and then only on the sole authority of an individual. In 1762 the following advertisement appeared in "Jackson's Oxford Journal."

"Statute Fair June 5.—Notice is hereby given that there will be a Statute held at "Bicester in the County of Oxford for the hiring of servants on Friday the 18th of June, "and will be continued to be held on the Friday next before the 20th of June yearly."

"N.B.—There will be at the said Statute a large show of fine cows, horses, sheep "hogs, &c."

G. Howlett, Chief Constable."³

¹ The Act states that Sir Edward Turner is seized of the greater part of the land, and of the patronage and rectorial tithes of the Church; and that John Princep the Vicar, is owner of the small tithes; the Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of Oxford, as Trustees for the Professor of Medicine, the trustees of the poor in the parish of Burcester; the tithing man for the time being; John Pardoe, Esq^r, John Cook, Jasper Robins, William Roberts, William Blake, Ann Wilson, Sarah Box, William Humphrey, William Tanner, John Walker, Edward Lock, Mary Horn, Robert Maynard, John Major, Thomas Allen, Daniel Horwood, James Nixon, Thomas Slater and many others being landowners; and that William Shillingford, Richard Kirby, John Barker, John Hicks, William Rolls, Dorothy Harris, Thomas Eyles, Jacob Thomas, Matthew Clarke, John King, and others, as "enjoying a "cottage common, viz. for great cattle only," by virtue of certain tenements in their possession; all had rights of common in the land, which it was proposed to enclose. To all and each of these the Act directed assignments of the land to be made as near to

their dwelling houses as possible or a sum of money paid equivalent to the rights of common, which they then relinquished. Special clauses were introduced to reserve the right of all persons interested in the mortar and stone pits.

² "The inclosed lands were certainly improved in value, but "many of the poorer inhabitants were ultimately considerable "losers, since the sum received in compensation (for the loss of "the right of commonage) was gradually dissipated, and the "privilege gone for ever. The expenses of inclosures could not be "defrayed by others, and these also were obliged to sell, so that "the evil fell upon those least able to bear it."—Dunkin's Histry.

³ In 1769 Mr. Howlett established three other fairs, to be held yearly in the Market Place at Burcester, (1) on the Friday in Easter week; (2) on the first Friday in June; and (3) on the Friday after Christmas day. Mr. Dunkin says of these in 1816 "The fair in Easter week is chiefly noted for the number of cattle "usually brought for sale. The others are but little attended."

The fair thus commenced for one day in June was afterwards changed to October, and its duration extended to the three Fridays following old Michaelmas day. As seen within living memory it has been after this sort. Early on the first fair day young girls, generally attended by their mothers, arranged themselves in an irregular row in front of the houses in the market place, patiently waiting, like slaves in an American market, to be first inspected, and then hired. Beyond them, lounging along the edge of the pavement, young men and boys took their place, wearing pieces of coloured thread, or some other observable token in their button holes, to mark their want of employment. Farmers and their wives then walked along the lines, scanning the outward appearance of each individual. Bargainings soon commenced for a year's service, and if any such was concluded, a shilling was given and taken as earnest money. Every hired servant then pinned a bunch of gay ribbons on their breast or shoulders, just as recruits in the army do, as a sign of their engagement. The contract however thus made might be broken by either party within the next few days, and thus another fair day was introduced to allow of a second hiring of such servants as had left their places since the previous Friday. This was commonly called "The Runaway Fair." A further opportunity was given for the hirers and the hired to rectify the failures of the two previous Fridays by a third fair, but this was attended by very diminished numbers.

These fairs had in their origin an innocent and useful intention, but various artifices of evil so gradually multiplied around them, that the good has been lost in the abounding evil. They are at the present time happily failing, and it is much to be hoped that an improved public opinion will call for their speedy abolition.

The roads made by the Romans long continued to be the chief thoroughfares of this district. Other roads were afterwards formed by the English settlers from one village to another. After the establishment of the Priory at Bicester these public highways were largely repaired by the monks, because it was to their interest to have the communication between their scattered properties as easy and regular as possible. That the roads of the country generally were in good condition in the middle ages seems almost certain from the fact, that journeys of considerable distance were then undertaken both on horseback and in carts in the course of a single day, which would have been impossible if the roads had been mere trackways with an oft-recurring series of ruts and mud holes.¹ One result of the dissolution of the Monasteries was the rapidity with which the roads fell out of repair. The new holders of monastic property were slow to recognize any claim upon their rents for the maintenance of the roads, and there was no longer that need of communication between scattered properties, which had been felt under different circumstances. So the highways grew worse and worse until they reached the climax of badness in the last century, when the increased traffic which had sprung up loudly called for an amendment. In 1763 an Act of Parliament was passed authorizing toll-gates, or turnpikes, to be erected, at which collectors were stationed to levy small sums of money from such persons as used the roads, where they were placed. The improvement of the roads of this district was soon taken up

¹ Rogers's *Agriculture and Prices*, vol. iv.

by the landowners and other persons interested in it.¹ In 1770 the road from Bicester to Aylesbury was repaired and widened² in order to afford more direct communication with London.³ A renewal Act was passed 20 years later, when the following scale of new tolls was adopted.

"For every horse or other beast drawing any Coach, Chariot, Landau, Berlin, Chaise, "Calash, Hearse or Chair, the sum of 4½^d.

"For every horse or other beast drawing any Wagon, Wain, Cart, Tumbrel, Car, Dray, "or Sledge the sum of 3^d.

"For every horse or other beast, laden or unladen, and not drawing, the sum of 1½^d.

"For every drove of oxen, cows, or neat cattle the sum of 10^d per score, and so in "proportion for any less number, and for every drove of calves, hogs, sheep, lambs or goats "the sum of 5^d per score, and so in proportion for any less number.

"Double tolls on Sundays."

The first turnpike on this road was erected at the entrance of the town, close to the house now called The Priory.

In 1793 an Act of Parliament was obtained for "amending, widening, and repairing the "road from Clay-hill, on the turnpike road between Neat Enstone and Chipping Norton "over the Heyford Bridge to the Water-lane in the town of Bicester, and from Bicester to "the turnpike road in Weston-on-the-Green." The terms and powers of this Act were enlarged in 1813, and "the road branching out of the turnpike road at Bicester windmill⁴ "to the turnpike road leading from Bletchington to Onslow Bridge" was included in those directed to be repaired. The first turnpike on these roads was placed at the point in King's End, where the Oxford and Enstone roads divide.

In 1793 another Act was passed for repairing and widening the road "from the Market "Place in Bicester to the Buckingham turnpike in Aynho," and in 1813 "the road branching "out of the turnpike road at Bicester Town's End, and joining the Buckingham turnpike "road in the parish of Finmere" was incorporated with it. Two turnpikes for these roads were erected at the end of Sheep Street, where they respectively begin, the old pound being taken to form the garden of the turnpike keeper's house. Thus the only entrance to the town remaining free of tolls⁵ was by the road from Launton. By these improved roads the town was placed in the line of direct communication between London and the N.W., and between Oxford and the E parts of the country.

¹ Turnpike trust bonds in all cases were limited under their respective Acts to a term of years, the supposition being that at the expiration of that term the money advanced on the bonds would have been repaid by the interest, and the improved value of property, by good means of communication having been introduced. From political and other reasons, on the expiration of the original term of the trusts, a Renewal Act was passed, which was brought before Parliament annually, and, probably of late years from custom, was always agreed to. (See article in the Times newspaper, Dec. 1874.)

² A great deal of the country, through which it passed, being still unenclosed, this road was put to strange purposes. The continuing Act recites "and whereas much damage hath been "done to the said turnpike road by farmers, dairymen, and their

"servants using the same as a milking yard, and for foddering "cattle, for remedy whereof be it enacted &c."

³ The old "London weye" through Grendon continued to be used until the end of the last century, and it is not unlikely that travellers from Bicester along that road two centuries previously may have occasionally fallen into company with the young stage-player, Shakspeare, in his various journeys between Stratford and London. A tradition has always been current in Grendon that Shakspeare used to pass through that village, and a house is still pointed out as that in which he used to stay to sleep.

⁴ The road leading to Chesterton, thence to Kirtlington, by the side of Middleton Park.

⁵ All the turnpikes mentioned were continued until 1875-80, when they were all abolished:

For a long time the roads had been barely practicable for wheeled vehicles of the rudest sort, but in 1758 the first postchaise was advertised.¹

"At the Crown Inn in Bicester, Oxfordshire Gentlemen and Ladies may be accommodated with a new and neat four-wheeled Postchaise, able horses, and a careful driver at a reasonable rate by their most obedient humble servant W. SHILLINGFORD. Likewise Saddle Horses with a guide to any part of England."

Stage coaches had been introduced into England from Hungary as early as 1580, but the novelty spread slowly, and it was not until 1793 that the first public coach began to run between Bicester and London.

"Cheap and Easy Conveyance.

"Bicester, Aylesbury, Tring, Berkhamstead, and Hampstead Coach sets out from the King's Head Inn, Bicester every Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings at seven o'clock to the Black Bull Inn, Holborn, London, and returns from thence every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at the same hour.

"Performed by the Publick's humble servant

GEORGE CLAYDON.

☞ "Calls at the Green Man and Still, the corner of Swallow Strt, in Oxford Strt"

In the following year a public conveyance to Oxford for the Saturday market-day was commenced.

"James Blackwell begs leave to inform his friends and the public that he has purchased a very neat chaise, and an able horse, with which he purposes to carry passengers to and from Oxford and Bicester every Saturday. He leaves Bicester at eight o'clock in the morning, and will arrive at the Roebuck Inn in the Cornmarket in Oxford about eleven; returns from thence for Bicester at three in the afternoon. Carries only two passengers. Fare 2s. each to Oxford, and 2s. from Oxford to Bicester."

A mail cart carried letters to and from Oxford, and was allowed to carry one passenger. Its movements were advertised in 1798.

"It sets out from J. Heritage's, the Rising Sun, in Sheep Strt., Bicester, to J. Norgrove's the Cross Inn in the Cornmarket, Oxford, every evening between five and six o'clock, and from Oxford to Bicester every morning precisely at six o'clock."

The King of Denmark passed through the town in 1763.

The opening of the canal between London and Birmingham in 1790 was of great importance to this neighbourhood, connecting it, not only with the large towns of the North but also with the Wednesbury collieries. The wharf at Lower Heyford then became the great depot of coal for this district, whence it had to be fetched at some cost, and occasionally with difficulty.²

The employments of the residents within the town in the xviiith century were the usual ones. Besides a few professional men, the tradespeople, artisans, and agricultural labourers, a large number of persons were engaged in the making of sack-cloth, common leather slippers and in the combing of Jersey wool. Women earned from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per week by spinning, but the almost universal employment of the female poor was the bone or pillow lace manufacture.

¹ This and the following advertisements may be seen in Jackson's Oxford Journal.

² "In the beginning of the year 1795 there was great distress from the severity of the weather, and the long continuance of the frost. Oxford and the neighbourhood were dependant for

the supply of coal on the canal, which was now frozen for ten weeks. It was not until March 4 that the navigation was reopened, when the price of coals fell at once from 4s. to 1s. 6d. per hundred."—Cox's Memorials of Oxford.

This art was introduced into this district from Bedfordshire.¹ Cowper has described the scene common here as elsewhere.

"Yon cottager, who weaves at her own door,
 "Pillow and bobbins all her little store;
 "Content though mean, and cheerful, if not gay,
 "Shuffling her threads about the livelong day;
 "Just earns a scanty pittance, and at night
 "Lies down secure, her heart and pocket light."

This lacemaking was very injurious to health. The small rooms, into which numbers of young girls were gathered; the length of time they sat, with heads inclined and chests contracted, before their pillows, especially during their apprenticeships, and the severities often practised on children in the dame schools, sowed the seeds of early decline in many; while the languor and debility and sallow complexion of others showed too plainly the pernicious nature of their employment. The profit too of the most diligent workers was very small, and this was further reduced by the truck system, a small sum of money only being paid by the lace-buyers, who came round at regular intervals, and the rest of the purchase worth being taken out in articles of trade reckoned at far above their marketable value.

Public morality had now fallen to a low ebb,² and the popular amusements of this period were very undesirable. Horse-racing of a degenerate kind took place yearly in King's-end field until its enclosure in 1794, and bull-baiting,³ and cock-fighting were in vogue until the beginning of the present century. There is record of a less harmful feat,

"Last week a footmatch, for a considerable sum of money was run over the course
 "near Bicester, between a Bedfordshire shepherd, and one of the Hertfordshire militia men,
 "which was won by the shepherd by half a mile. They ran five times round the two-
 "mile course, which the shepherd performed in 65 minutes, May 1760."⁴

A centenarian, who died in 1862, said "that he recollected festivities at Bicester in 1760, on the accession of George III, and he added, Ah, those were glorious times! "The gentry of the town and country round helped the people to make merry! There "was Squire Bullock, of Caversfield, Squire Stratton, of Chesterton, Dr. Brown, of Launton, "Coker, of Bicester, and Parson Ellis! They set the beer a going, and they had an ox, "and two sheep roasted whole, while plum-puddings were rolled into the Town Hall like "skittle balls! The streets blazed with illuminations, and bonfires were burning at every "corner of the town! Then prices were low, fresh butter 3d. a lb., and a 9 lb. loaf was 6d., "and mutton and beef 2d. a lb."⁵

¹ The introduction of this art into England is generally assigned to the Flemings (a nation to whose successive immigrations this country owes much of her manufacturing greatness) who in 1568 settled first at Cranfield, in Beds, and then at Buckingham, Stoney Stratford, and Newport Pagnell; but on the other hand traditions have been long current in Beds, that the peasants of that county had been before that date taught this art, through the kindness of Catherine of Aragon, while that unhappy Queen resided for two years (1531-33) at her jointure manor of Amphill. From Beds the manufacture spread rapidly to the adjacent counties, and the workers at Buckingham soon gained the highest place in public estimation.—History of Lace, by Mrs. Palliser 1865.

² No mere growth of population can account for the following figures. Illegitimate births, taken from the Church Register: 1539-99 (60 years) 17; 1600-99, 21; 1700-99, (in 1st half of century 28; 2nd half, 79,) total 107.

³ "To the exertions of this gentleman, (John Coker, Esq.) "great praise is due for putting an end to the inhuman practice "of bull-baiting, which formerly was a prevalent amusement in "Bicester. The writer, when a boy, saw with pleasure his "determined and laudable conduct in rescuing a poor animal, "destined to become the victim of this cruel sport, from a savage "mob; and never since that time has the practice been attempted "to be revived."—Dunkin's History.

⁴ Bedfordshire Newspaper. This extract is given in "Beds Notes and Queries," by F. A. Blaydes, Jany. 1883.

⁵ Memoir of John Pratt "by Mr. Tireman, Oxford, 1862. This case excited some interest as one of longevity, but it is clear that the old man confused the King's accession with his recovery in 1789, when there were great public rejoicings.

The mass of the people grew up uninstructed.¹ Some efforts had perhaps been made here, as in other places, by the clergy soon after the Reformation to give elementary instruction to their parishioners, but no school had been founded, and whatever efforts had been previously made in this direction had been long discontinued.

The first attempt at the elementary instruction of the poorer classes was made in 1721, by the following appeal:—

“Whereas profaneness and debauchery are greatly owing to a gross ignorance of the Christian religion, and for want of an early and pious education of youth, especially among the poorer sort; and whereas many poor people are desirous of having their children taught, but are not able to afford them a Christian and useful education; we, whose names are under-written, do hereby agree to pay yearly, at 4 equal payments, the several sums of money over against our names respectively subscribed, for the setting up a charity-school in the parish of Burcester, in the County of Oxford, for teaching to read, and instructing in the knowledge and practice of the Christian religion, as professed and taught in the Church of England, 30 boys out of the aforesaid and neighbouring parishes, viz. Ambrosden, Bucknell, Launton, Chesterton, and Wendlebury; and the better to encourage the same we do further agree not to withdraw our subscription money without giving a year's notice thereof, for which good purposes we do readily and willingly subscribe the following sums to commence from Michaelmas, 1721. Anonymous, £5; John Lord Bishop of Oxford, £2; Lord Abingdon, £5; Rev. Mr. Airson, &c.”

The free school thus originated admitted boys only, from 7 to 14 years of age, and was held at first in the town Hall, then in a smaller room over the Lockup, and afterwards in that part of the parish Church, which had been occupied by the Grammar School. Besides the usual elements of instruction, the boys were taught spinning² and received once in two or three years, as the funds allowed it, a gift of clothing consisting of a blue coat, leather breeches, and a cap. Hence this school came to be known as the “Blue Coat School.” The master's salary varied from £25 to £30 per annum, and his teaching was strictly limited to 30 boys, the school-room not being large enough to hold more.

The first Sunday school in Bicester owes its origin to a worthy inhabitant of the town, Mr. James Jones, soon after the great impulse had been given to this movement by Mr. R. Raikes's successful efforts at Gloucester. Mr. Jones offered free instruction in secular and religious subjects to as many persons as would attend at his house on Sunday and one evening every week. The novelty of this proposal drew many applicants, and a perceptible good was done. Mr. Jones then appealed for public support, but this was generally withheld on the ground that instruction in secular subjects was already provided in the free day-school, and was to be reprehended on Sundays. His good efforts however bore fruit, for steps were at once taken, during the incumbency of Mr. Eyre, (1779-97) to establish a school for imparting elementary religious teaching on Sundays. The idea of voluntary teachers had not then arisen. Two paid masters and mistresses were therefore appointed; the scholars of both sexes were limited to 100; the schoolroom in the Church was assigned for their use, and seats were erected under the West

¹ Out of 750 persons married in the parish Church in the last quarter of the xviiiith century, 428 only could write their names in any form.

² In 1725 a subscriber to the school urged the desirableness of the boys being taught some industrial art. The managers therefore determined that spinning Jersey should be taught.

gallery for their accommodation at public worship. Mr. Jones, upon the invitation of the Dissenters, transferred his remaining scholars to their chapel in 1794.

The population of this country increased slowly, if at all, for centuries. Infantile diseases, wholesale pestilences, carried off the weakest in every generation, and left those only of the strongest constitutions to perpetuate the race.¹ The population of this town had only trebled itself in the course of four centuries, rising from about 200 in the xiith, to between 500 and 600 in the first half of the xvth century. A slight change then set in, and in half the aforesaid period the population again trebled itself, as the following tables compiled from the Church Registers, show.

Years. Single year. 1639	BAPTISMS.				MARRIAGES.				BURIALS.			
	Total.	Highest number	Lowest number	Average Yearly.	Total.	Highest number	Lowest number	Average Yearly.	Total.	Highest number	Lowest number	Average Yearly.
1639	22	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	18	...	...	...
Decades.												
1540—49	219	28	11	21.9	62	10	4	6.2	157	24	6	15.7
1550—59	205	28	10	20.5	61	15	2	6.1	258	60	8	25.8
1560—69*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1570—79	203	27	15	20.3	57	9	3	5.7	194	50	6	19.4
1580—89	225	30	16	22.5	56	10	2	5.6	141	24	8	14.1
1590—99	228	31	15	22.8	44	9	1	4.4	180	28	12	18
1600—09	268	35	15	26.8	53	8	1	5.3	194	47	10	19.4
1610—19	322	37	29	32.2	48	9	1	4.8	219	46	14	21.9
1620—29†	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1630—39	411	57	30	41.1	41	8	1	4.1	262	48	16	26.2
1640—49	391	52	28	39.1	18	5	none	1.8	290	60	14	29
1650—59	444	55	34	44.4	67	19	none	6.7	279	38	19	27.9
1660—69	484	57	38	48.4	40	11	none	4	318	40	21	31.8
1670—79	418	49	28	41.8	54	10	2	5.4	344	49	21	34.4
1680—89	465	59	34	46.5	56	9	2	5.6	416	52	24	41.6
1690—99	438	56	28	43.8	38	6	1	3.8	386	51	27	38.6
1700—09	427	52	28	42.7	62	11	2	6.2	416	68	23	41.6
1710—19	391	50	24	39.1	152	25	5	15.2	357	48	20	35.7
1720—29	389	45	30	38.9	186	23	14	18.6	440	60	32	44.0
1730—39	474	55	39	47.4	153	31	7	15.3	443	54]	35	44.3
1740—49	438	53	36	43.8	174	22	10	17.4	487	64	35	48.7
1750—59	408	66	28	40.8	§	§	§	§	381	56	25	38.1
1760—69	470	63	41	47	§	§	§	§	488	89	33	48.8
1770—79	529	65	35	52.9	§	§	§	§	363	42	30	36.3
1780—89	504	66	39	50.4	135	21	8	13.5	449	62	27	44.0
1790—99	641	82	58	64.1	155	23	7	15.5	441	56	26	44.1

* Registers irregularly kept from 1564 to 1568. † Entries irregular and missing in some years.
 § Register from 1755 to 1775 missing.

¹ "What common folk (says a state paper of 1515) of all the "folk is so mighty, and so strong in the field, as the commons of "world may compare with the commons of England in riches, "England?" "freedom, liberty, welfare and all prosperity? What common

IN THE PRESENT CENTURY.

In the first year of the current century the population of the town, including the hamlet of Wretchwick, amounted to 1946 persons (males 940, females 1006), forming 449 families, (of whom 48 resided in King's End, and 401 in Market End) and inhabiting 408 houses, (44 in King's End, 364 in Market End) of whom 906 persons were engaged in trade, 923 in agriculture, leaving 117 persons not included in either of these classes.

In the course of the next ten years this number was increased by 200, forming an addition of 49 families, for whose accommodation 3 houses were built in King's End and 3 only in Market End.

In the second decade (1811-21,) 398 more persons had been added (224 males, 174 females), making a¹ total of 2544 and distributed in 29 families, making a total of 527 families (of whom 50 were resident in King's End, and 477 in Market End) 59 additional houses having been built in Market End.

Within the third decade, the population rose to 2868 (males 1391, females 1477) forming 575 families (those in King's End being reduced to 44, and those in Market End increased to 531); five houses had been pulled down in King's End, but 97 new houses had been built in Market End, making a total of 567 inhabited houses, while 21 houses were standing empty, and one house was in the course of erection. At this time an important change took place in the occupations of the residents. In 1811 the families engaged in agriculture had been 226 (33 in King's End, and 193 in Market End), but in 1831 these were reduced to 154² (15 in King's End, and 139 in Market End). In 1811 the families engaged in different kinds of trade had been 237 (22 in King's End, 215 in Market End), but in 1831 these had risen to 391³ (21 in King's End, and 370 in Market End). In 1811 the families not included in either of these classes amounted to 89 (5 in King's End, 84 in Market End), but in 1831 these were no more than 30 (8 in King's End and 22 in Market End.)

Between 1831 and 1841 no great change took place. Ten more houses were built in King's End (total 52) and 13 in Market End (total 536), but the increase of the population was only 154, (total, 3022; males 1439, females 1583, of whom 2564 had been born in Oxfordshire, 458 elsewhere.) The natural increase had been sadly hindered by the terrible visitation of the cholera in 1832, and the slight increase, which took place, is partly attributable to the building of the Union Workhouse in 1836, within the township of Market End, in which 79 persons were resident in the year in which this census was taken. From the middle of this century the returns of the census show only slight variations.

¹ This does not include 100 persons distributed in 25 families, occupying 25 houses, in Market End, reckoned in Caversfield parish.

² In 1831, 24 occupiers of land employed 190 labourers (5 in King's End employing 20, and 19 in Market End employing 170). There were five persons in Market End occupying land, but employing no labourers.

³ In 1831 the number of persons employed in retail trade or in handicraft, as masters or workmen was 407 (22 in King's End 385 in Market End). The number of professional and educated men was 44 (4 in King's End, 40 in Market End). Domestic servants then numbered 162 (22 in King's End, 7 males, 15 females; and 140 in Market End, 45 males, 95 females.)

	HOUSES.			POPULATION.		
	INHAB- ITED.	UNIN- HABITED.	BUILD- ING.	PERSONS.	MALES.	FEMALES
1851.						
King's End	53	1	—	291	142	149
Market End	566	14	—	2763	1333	1430
	619	15	—	3054	1475	1579
1861.						
King's End	64	—	3	338	148	190
Market End	593	16	3	2711	1311	1400
	657	16	6	3049	1459	1590
1871.						
King's End	70	3	—	310	134	176
Market End	614	18	3	3018	1506	1512
	684	21	3	3328	1640	1688
1881.						
King's End	72	3	—	329	144	185
Market End 1	611	29	3	2977	1488	1489
	683	32	3	3306	1632	1674

In area the district of Market-end (including Wretchwick) covers 2217a. 1r. 35p.; that of King's End 1433a. or. 19p. The gross estimated rental of Market-end is £10,155 4s. 1d., rateable value £8,619 18s., County Assessment £8,373; that of King's End is £3,132 5s., rateable value £2,904 10s., County Assessment £2,577.

The prices of agricultural labour were rising at the beginning of this century, as the following tables presented to the Board of Agriculture will show.

	1790			1803			Rise
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	per cent.
Day labour in winter per week ..	0	6	6	0	8	6	30
Ditto in summer ..	0	9	0	0	13	0	44
Ditto in Harvest ..	0	13	0	0	16	6	26
Reaping wheat per acre ..	0	7	3	0	9	9	44
Mowing barley ..	0	1	3	0	2	0	41
Thrashing wheat per quarter ..	0	3	2	0	4	9	51
„ barley ..	0	1	4	0	1	9	31
Carpenter per day ..	0	1	8	0	2	5	45
Mason ..	0	1	7	0	2	5	52
Thatcher ..	0	1	7	0	2	1½	34
Collar Maker ..	0	1	10	0	2	6	36

The average rise of the wages of labourers was 37 per cent.; of artisans 35 per cent.; of rent 20 per cent.; of rates 169 per cent.

But the two great social evils generally prevalent were present in this town in an extreme degree, excessive pauperism, and high rating for its relief.

The following scale of payments was agreed to at a vestry in 1830.

	£	s.	d.	
Boys, from 10 to 12 years of age ..	0	2	6	per week
Ditto 12 to 16 ditto ..	0	3	6	„
Single Men, from 16 to 20, and upwards ..	0	5	0	„
Man and wife ..	0	7	0	„
Ditto with one child ..	0	8	0	„
Ditto with two children ..	0	9	3	„
and so on in proportion, with 1s. 3d. for each day.				

¹ The residents in the Union Workhouse, (officers 5, inmates 65, tramps 3, total 73 on the day of taking the census) are included in the population of Market End.

The number of persons receiving parish relief as given in one year (1816) may be taken as an average one:—

	King's End.			Market End.		
Out-door, permanently	15	..	67	..	..	67
Ditto, occasionally	4	..	77	..	..	77
In-door, permanently	—	..	27	..	..	27
Children under five years of age ..	3	..	21	..	..	21
Ditto from five to 14, out-door ..	10	..	30	..	..	30
Persons not belonging to the town ..	3	..	180	..	..	180
Total ..	35					402

A fifth part therefore of the residents within the town was in a condition of declared pauperism. The money raised by rate yearly for poor relief had increased as follows:—

Years.	King's End.			Market End.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1776	35	10	3	288	2	2
1783-5 (average) ..	34	3	6	534	13	8
1803 ¹	107	13	7	1239	3	4
1832 ² (average) ..	147	0	3	3605	0	0

The customary plans of allotting the labourers to different employers, and supplementing their wages from the poor rates, and of the Roundsmen and Ticket system were in full force. They are thus alluded to in the Poor Law Commissioners' Report by Mr. Hall, in 1835:—

"I am inclined to say generally that the evils resulting from a principle, which destroys the connexion between work and wages, flourish more vigorously in Oxfordshire than in that district of Berkshire where it was at first formally derived and sanctioned. Nowhere have I seen the relation between employer and employed so much disturbed, as in the vicinity of Bicester; the usual form of parochial management is this; the parish in the first instance settles the proper amount of income for every labourer within it, according to the number of his family and the price of bread; the farmers at a general meeting held once a year, bid against each other for the men, and that master receives any labourer as his servant, who will undertake to pay the largest portion of the sum, which the parish has decreed that he is to receive; so that good character is no advantage to the labourer, but the parish gains by it; his industry does not increase his means or add to his respectability and comfort; it only diminishes the expenditure of the parish. In some places a slight deviation from this custom has been made; the terms of this sale

¹ The yearly expenditure for the other purposes of Church Rate, County Rate, Militia, Roads, &c., at this time, was

	King's End.			Market End.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Kings's End ...	5	3	10	Market End ...	42	10 6½
making a total yearly expenditure of						
	King's End.			Market End.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Poor relief ...	107	13	7	...	1239	3 4
Other purposes ..	5	3	10	...	42	10 6½
	112	17	5		1281	13 10½

These sums were raised by a rate of 1s. 6d. in the pound in King's End, and of 6s. 6d. in Market End. See Arthur Young's Survey of Oxon, p 56; Dunkin's History, p. 43.

² Compare with the above the present state of things

	King's End.			Market End.		
1879. Out-door poor relieved ...	5	..	134	...	...	134
In-door	2	..	20	...	...	20
	7		154			154
Contributions to Union yearly } (exclusive of County Rate, &c.) }	£72		£209			

"by auction are varied; the parish will not allow the men to go for less than the full price; and all that are not thus disposed of are sent round with tickets. The tendency of this plan will appear from the following conversation between the overseer of Boarstall in Bucks, and myself; "Do you employ many regular men?—Yes, sir, several. And many roundsmen?—Too many by half, sir. Do you pay all alike?—Yes, I give every man his right price.—How many hours a day do the regular labourers work?—I have a large dairy and they must be at their milking soon after five in the morning, and again at six in the evening, so that they remain at this time of the year about 13 hours.—And the roundsmen, when do they come and go?—I cannot get them before eight or nine in the morning, and they are all off in the afternoon between three and four; their work is worth nothing, when they are with me.—And they are paid like the rest?—Yes, just the same according to their price.—Does the number of men on the round increase or diminish?—There are more and more every year.—Then I suppose the labourers of your parish do not improve? Improve, sir! they keep getting on worse and worse, and unless you do something for us I expect they will soon give up work altogether. And such is the substance of every conversation I have ever held on the same subject. In describing the universal prevalence of the allowance system through the district, in which I have acted, I must not leave my statements unqualified. I have occasionally had the pleasure of communicating with gentlemen who, with intelligence to perceive, have combined spirit to remedy its evils. Lord Chetwynd, in the township of Bicester Market End; Mr. Cherry in the parish of Kintbury, and Mr. Mount in that of Thatcham, have shown that it was not necessary to succumb to them in hopeless despondency, but the effect of their exertions has been confined to their own parishes; the contrast between them and their neighbours only proves that mere example will do nothing for them, and that a powerful hand must interpose to rescue them from the destruction into which they are quietly sinking.

The evils of this system became so apparent in the increasing indolence of the labouring poor, and the enormous advance of the poor rate, that a special vestry was held in 1821 to alleviate them. It was then agreed, on the suggestion of Sir G. O. P. Turner, that the farmers should find piecework at a fair price for a certain number of men, he undertaking to supply the remainder in a similar way in his stone quarry and brick field on Blackthorn Hill. The immediate result was a reduction of the poor rate by one half.

A Workhouse capable of holding 40 inmates had been built in the last century on the outskirts of the town by the Trustees of the Town Stock,¹ and was let to the parish. About the year 1830, when everything connected with poor relief was at its worst, a plan long practised elsewhere was adopted here, of paying a fixed sum of money yearly to any person who would undertake the employment and maintenance of the workhouse and other poor. This was called "Farming or Letting the Poor."² Mr. Hall alludes to it in his report.

¹ "Wanted immediately at the House of Industry at Bicester, "a person to instruct the poor in spinning of wool, Jersey, and "coarse linen. A man and his wife may meet with proper "encouragement, and if acquainted with preparing of wool for the "Witney manufactory will be made agreeable."—Advertisement in Jackson's Oxford Journal, May 31st, 1782.)

This house still stands, on the left hand side of the road to the

railway station, soon after passing the road to Launton.

² A common advertisement in every County paper about that time was: "Parish Poor to Lett. Wanted a sober respectable "person to farm the Workhouse—also to maintain and employ "the poor of the parish of ——. Any person or persons "willing to contract for the same may apply to the overseers of "the parish aforesaid on or before ——".

"The parish of Wootton, which includes Old Woodstock, furnished me with the first instance I had met with, where the poor were farmed at a gross sum for the whole; nothing can denote more clearly the hopeless state of a parish far gone in pauperism than the ratepayers having recourse to this desperate expedient, perfectly futile it must be, or rather it must greatly aggravate the evils it is meant to palliate; the contractor has a direct inducement, first, to increase the number of paupers, so as to procure better terms when the period arrives for the renewal of the contract; secondly, to give the paupers as little as possible so as to make the most of the existing bargain. Thus it was at Wootton; the first year the stipulated sum was £1000; the second year, though a large fall had taken place in the price of provisions, an increase of £100 was demanded and obtained,¹ and the contractor told me that had not the anticipated union caused the discontinuance of the plan at Lady-day last, he should have applied for a still higher amount, so rapidly had the number of paupers increased; at the same time discontent and demoralization were proportionally prevalent."

"In the township of Bicester Market End a similar plan was adopted about four years since; and in the opinion of Lord Chetwynd, whose competence to judge has been proved by what he has subsequently effected in the same place, more mischief was caused by it in twelve months than by five years of ordinary mismanagement."

An effort to relieve the poor rate was made in 1830, by a scheme of free emigration to the United States of America, for such poor chargeable to the parish as were willing to accept it. On May 24th in that year, 85 persons were conveyed to Liverpool.² Their passage money was then paid; suitable clothing provided, and a bounty of £5 to each married man or widower, with a further allowance of £1 10s. for each child, and of £3 to every unmarried man, or widower, without children, was given.³ This scheme was not altogether successful, for some of the intending emigrants lost heart at the last moment, and worked their way back to Bicester in the course of the ensuing autumn.⁴ The expense of it was defrayed by £1000 borrowed on the rates.

"Dairies were found on a large scale at Wendlebury and Bicester, and they are reckoned to yield, the whole herd through, on an average, 5lb. of butter per week. The breed long-horned; the land not thought good enough for short-horned. All fed on hay during the winter."⁵

¹ It was exactly the same at Bicester. In 1830 the sum paid for farming the able-bodied poor was £1,100, but in the next year it rose; "Mr. Paxton having proposed to take the labourers at the sum of £1,200, it is resolved to let them to him at that sum, according to the spirit of the agreement read over at this meeting."—(Minutes of vestry meeting, Sept. 6th, 1831.)

² "It is proposed to give Mr. Wm. Reynolds £34 13s. 4d. for conveying paupers to Liverpool with a waggon and four horses, exclusive of turnpikes; also to Mr. Warrington, with a waggon and three horses the sum of £26; Mr. Coppock the same as Warrington. Turnpikes to be paid by the Committee." (Minutes of Select Vestry, May 18th, 1830.)

³ "The Chairman is authorized to order payment of the sum of £800 to Messrs. Paxton and Foster upon their arrival

"in Liverpool." (Ditto, May 22nd, 1830.)

⁴ "James Grace (who consented to emigrate to America and went with the rest of them to Banbury, and would not then go any further) applies, &c. (Vestry Meeting, Nov. 16th, 1830.)

"James Archer, who emigrated to America, comes here, and wants relief, and to borrow money. (Ditto, Nov. 30th, 1830.)

The labour assigned to the returned emigrants was to be sent each day to Lower Heyford with a barrow, and to bring back one cwt. of coal from the wharf there, but on Dec. 14th, 1830, it was resolved "That the men who have returned from the emigration from America, who have gone to Lower Heyford to fetch coal do apply to the Overseers for an alteration of employment."

⁵ A. Young's Survey of Oxon, p. 274 and 323.

A steady rise had begun in the price of provisions:—In 1768 mutton was 4d. to 4½d. per lb.; beef, 4d. to 5d.; veal, 3½d.; bacon, 8d.; butter, 6d. to 7d. In 1807 mutton was 7d. to 7½d. per lb.; beef, 6½d. to 7d.; veal, 7½d.; bacon, 10d.; butter, 10d. to 1s. 1½d. The rise therefore was in mutton 64 per cent., beef 50 per cent., veal 114 per cent., bacon 25 per cent., butter 76 per cent.

The practical application of sanitary knowledge did not begin in England until about the middle of the last century.¹ It made but little way then even where most needed, in the large towns, and Bicester was no exception to their generally unhealthy condition. Accordingly when the Asiatic Cholera reached this district, in June, 1832, it found in the overcrowded cottages of Crockwell and the New Buildings a state of atmospheric impurities, which most sadly favoured its ravages. The first death from cholera in Bicester took place on June 7th,² and from that time the pestilence raged for six weeks, until July 19th, when it ceased as suddenly as it had begun. It is not possible to ascertain the number of persons, who were attacked, but no less than 64 (29 males, 35 females) died in that interval.

Between infancy and 10 years of age	..	..	..	20
„ 10 years and 20	„	..	..	6
„ 20 „ 30	„	..	..	6
„ 30 „ 40	„	..	..	6
„ 40 „ 50	„	..	..	6
„ 50 „ 60	„	..	..	9
„ 60 „ 70	„	..	..	10
„ 70 „ 80	„	..	..	—
„ 80 „ 90	„	..	..	1
				64

This was a grievous mortality, higher in proportion to population than in any other town in England. The dead were conveyed in a cart provided for the purpose, two, three, and occasionally five each day, and buried in separate graves at the furthest extremity of the S. side of the churchyard. Several rows of turf graves remained for many years the only witness of this sad time, but afterwards sixty names were engraved on a memorial stone.³ During the prevalence of the pestilence a Board of Health⁴ was formed, who exerted themselves in the gratuitous distribution of bread, meat, soup, and brandy, the nursing of the sick, the burial of the dead, the removal of nuisances, and the cleansing of all unhealthy dwellings and foul places. The expenses of the Board in these matters were,

1st week ending July 3rd, 1832	..	203	12	1½
2nd ditto „ „ 11th, „	..	89	1	10
3rd ditto „ „ 17th, „	..	28	4	2
4th ditto „ „ 26th, „	..	75	13	4
5th ditto „ Aug 2nd, „	..	32	17	7
6th ditto „ „ 9th „	..	33	3	9
7th ditto „ „ 16th, „	..	29	10	5
8th ditto „ „ 25th, „	..	39	5	9
		£531	8	11½

¹ In 1733 a publication by Rev. S. Hales, rector of Teddington, "On the Air," first drew considerable attention to it.

² In a house at the N. end of Water Lane, which has since been pulled down.

³ The present position of this stone has nothing to do with that of the graves, being at a considerable distance W. of them. It was at first placed against the S. wall of the church, opposite to

the graves, but it was afterwards removed to where it now stands.

⁴ The Chairman of the Board was Viscount Chetwynd, then resident in Bicester House, who during this sad time set a noble example of self-sacrificing care for others. An acknowledgment of his services was made by the presentation to him of a silver claret jug from 36 subscribers of 10s, 27 of 5s., and 19 of 2s. 6d.

Meat was obtained from London weekly. The payments to the doctors were, to Mr. W. Dawson, for Market End £130, and to Mr. W. Davis, for King's End £8., 8s. Public notices of the freedom of the town from Cholera were issued on July 20th, but two deaths from it happened after that date.

Under all these disadvantages of social evil the town continued its march of progress. The lapse of 160 years had rendered the Town Hall ruinous and unsightly, and the butchers, having established shops in their own houses, had ceased to use the Shambles. These were accordingly pulled down in 1826, but in a very lawless way; a mob being allowed to assault and destroy the old buildings, and to carry away whatever materials any one could appropriate. The Clock and Sundial and Weather-cock were alone preserved.¹

A new and better access to the more modern part of the town was now formed from the London-road, in place of the old road through the Water-lane,² the turnpike being now removed from the latter to the point whence the new road commenced. To obviate the inconvenience to a growing population of the narrow street of the original village (still apparent in the Causeway), a footway had been made within the Churchyard along its Northern boundary,³ and in 1837 this was thrown into the public road, whereby an increase of more than 4 ft. was made to the latter.⁴

The old Pillory or Whipping post were now gone (the irons belonging to the latter having been fixed, at its removal, to a post in the shambles) but the Stocks were still remaining in the Market Place.

The following minute of a Vestry held on Nov. 12th, 1827 records the first appointment of a parish Bedel.

"It is also resolved at this meeting That Thomas Shephard do act, and he is hereby "appointed Beedle of this township to guard and watch the town and precincts of Bicester "Market End from being annoyed by Beggars, Tramps, or Vagrants, and to cause "such to be apprehended and taken before a magistrate; and to watch and guard against

1 "An inventory of the Clock, &c., &c., removed to my house
"at the taking down of the late Town Hall and Shambles in
"Bicester Market End, Oxon on the 22nd day of May, 1826.

"The Clock	Frame, Hammer
"The Dial	Rope and Ladder
"The Bell	The Weather Cock and
"Weights and Line	Sun Dial, in three parts.

"J. Tomlinson,
"Watch Maker, Bicester.

"Bicester Market-end, Easter 1831.

"Mem^o. The above Clock, &c. were removed from Mr.

"J. Tomlinson's and placed in the old Library in the Church.

"Jno. George, Churchwarden."

An entry in the Minutes of the School Vestry of Market End, dated June 17th 1828, is as follows.

"The Overseers to &c., and apply to Mr. Clements, and all
"other parties, who appear to have any of the property of the late
"Town Hall."

At a vestry held on Nov. 1st, 1826, a resolution was passed that the surplus of some money should "go towards building a new Town Hall.

2 That part of the old road, which led from the turnpike on the London Road to Water Lane was inclosed at the making of the railway in 1850.

3 "A path is admitted under the N. wall of the churchyard, and used by the parishioners as a thoroughfare, this is shaded by elms, and may be considered as the chief promenade." (Dunkin's History of Bicester.)

4 In the year 1837 the North wall adjoining the turnpike road was removed, giving the broad gravel footpath, viz. : more than "four feet in width to the street, and said turnpike road. This "was done by contract by Mr. Jas. Clements for £90; £15 7s. od. "as stated in these accounts was paid by the parish, and £30 by "the Commissioners of the said Enstone Trust, and the remainder "paid by a collection made from the inhabitants of Bicester.

"all Labourers who are in the habit of bringing home wood,¹ when returning from their labour, and to give information of the same to the Constable or Overseers, in order to make them account from whence they had the said wood."

"And also to disperse all persons who unlawfully assemble together in the streets, and all boys playing any unlawful game, particularly on Sundays, in the character of idle, disorderly persons, and take them before a magistrate, and to convey all prisoners to gaol, being paid his expenses."

"And more particularly to watch and keep all persons from committing nuisances in the Churchyard, and disperse all boys who are found trampling on the graves, breaking grave-stones, or doing any unlawful act within the precincts of the township of Bicester Market End."

"And that he shall wear a blue coat with a red collar and red cuffs, and have a staff to parade the streets in the day time. And also to see that no unlawful games be practised, or any nuisance or misdemeanour committed by boys, or other persons in this parish; and to be sworn in special Constable if required; and to be also subservient to, and commanded by, the Churchwardens and Overseers at all times, for which services it is Resolved that he shall have Ten Shillings per week."

William Paxton, Chairman."

During the war with France a company of Volunteers was formed in 1798, who continued in the service of the Government until the peace of Amiens in 1802.

The trade of the weekly market was gradually growing. At the present time sheep varying from 300 to 500 in number, and other cattle from 40 to 50, are brought to market in each fortnight, of which four-fifths are sold by auction.

Changes have taken place in the occupations of the poor, the old lace-making having now almost entirely disappeared.²

Travellers through, and visitors to, the town increased. It was a common daily sight to see carriages stopping in front of the two chief inns to change post horses. The London coach now accomplished its journey both ways daily. Mail coaches to and from Birmingham broke the stillness of each midnight by the shrill sounding of the guard's horn as they swept through the empty streets. Every morning at 9.30, a coach from Oxford passed on its way to Northampton, and every afternoon at 5.30, on its return journey.

"Waggons go from Bicester to London with butter, taking ten tons per week,³ chiefly loaded between Bicester and Wheatley." Afterwards they travelled through Aylesbury also. A waggon went also once a week to Birmingham.

¹ This seems to have been at this time a too common offence. At the same vestry meeting a resolution was made "That the labourers working on the road, who have had 2s. per week over and beyond their weekly pay, to have the overplus allowance in coals instead of money; this in order that they should have no pretence for stealing wood, and to encourage them to act as good labourers ought to do."

² "Some of the poor have been of late years employed in the lace trade, but even this seems declining (1816), and time alone can discover whether the new business introduced, viz. the

"plaiting of straw, will rise to any consequence."—Dunkin's History of Bicester.

In the report of the International Exhibition of 1862 the number of lacemakers in the counties of Buckingham, Bedford, Northampton and Oxon, was estimated at 25,000, but since that time, every kind of lace being now made by machinery, the trade and occupation have almost entirely passed away, a few workers only being still found among the old people in the villages.

³ A. Young's Survey, p. 278.

As the centre of a famous fox-hunting district the town attracted several sportsmen, who made it regularly their head quarters through the winter months.

A further effort towards extending elementary instruction was made in 1835 by the erection of a School for girls, on a piece of ground opposite the church, given by Mr. Coker.¹

The year 1845 was the most remarkable in the history of railways, as witnessing what has been well described "The Railway Mania." In 1844 the projected new railways numbered 248, but in the next year this number was 815. Parliament had required that the plans of proposed railways should be deposited at the offices of the Board of Trade on or before Nov. 30th in that year. Several amusing descriptions are given in the newspapers of that time of the artifices employed for the conveyance of plans to London from all parts of the country; of the rapid succession of persons arriving there in all kinds of carriages, bearing freights of parchment and paper; of the extraordinary excitement of the last day, when no less than 600 plans were deposited, and of the last hour of that day when the best efforts of the officials were unable to keep pace with the arrivals.² Among the plans given in on that famous day was one for the formation of a railway from Bletchley to Oxford, to be called the "Buckinghamshire Railway." An Act of Parliament sanctioning this line was passed the next year, and early in 1847 the road was formed as far as Poundon. In December of that year the works were suspended, in consequence of the depressed state of the money market, but three years later the road was continued to Islip. On Oct. 1st, 1850, the completed part was opened for public traffic. The contract for making this railway (47½ miles, including the line from Winslow to Banbury) was taken by the well-known Mr. Brassey. The wages of the men employed in the works varied from 2s. 9d. to 3s. per day.

The opening of this Railway was duly celebrated. The bells of the parish Churches rang out merry peals; bands of music played inspiring airs; the crowds cheered lustily the passing train, and thus, amid much excitement and general interest, this great undertaking was inaugurated. The effects of the railway have been literally a social revolution. "Of all 'inventions,'" says Lord Macaulay, "the alphabet and the printing press alone excepted, 'those inventions which abridge distance have done most for the civilization of our species. 'Every improvement of the means of locomotion benefits mankind morally and intellectually, 'as well as materially, and not only facilitates the interchange of the various productions 'of nature and art, but tends to remove national and provincial antipathies, and to bind 'together all the branches of the great human family.'"

¹ This Schoolroom has been converted into 2 houses, having been reclaimed, when the need of it was superseded by the present schools.

² Innumerable surveyors and levellers were required in that

year, many of whom made from 6 to 15 guineas a day. During November scarcely a copperplate engraving could be obtained, all the large houses having taken as many orders as they could execute.

The average number of letters received at the Post Office for distribution within the limits of the town delivery per week has grown as follows.

YEARS.	LETTERS.	BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND NEWSPAPERS.		CARDS.	TOTAL.
1845	1440	—		—	1440
1869	4520	886		—	5406
1873	4875	1804		334	7013
1883	5920	BOOKPACKETS. 1843	NEWSPAPERS. 1124	715	9602

REGISTERED LETTERS.			TELEGRAMS.		
1873	..	1752	1877	..	5470
1882	..	3827	1882	..	7152

The estimated number of letters posted and forwarded per week at the present time is 19202.

Gas introduced	1845
National Schools built	1859
Infant School	1869
County Court House	1865
County Police House and Magistrates' Room	1873
St. Edburg's Hall	1882

PUBLIC CHARITIES.

THE TOWN STOCK.

Very early in the xvth century a philanthropist, whose name remains unknown, founded the first public charity.¹ The exact date of this bequest is alike unknown, but it was certainly before 1529, for in that year there was an action at law connected with it.² The earliest document known concerning it is the following deed of the appointment of a new set of trustees in succession to a previous one, which gives a description of the property then belonging to the trust.

Indenture made 12 August 4th Ed vi. (1551) between John Wygyns son and heire of Benette Wykyns otherwyse called Wygyns and Henry More of Burcester on the one partye, and Robert Dyngleye, Wyllm. Harte, Henry Okeley, James Hoggeson, John Gryffyth, Benett More, John Myllward, Avery Copelond, Robt. Foxe, Robt. Stevens, Henry Squier, Willm. Baylys, Thomas Bodycotte, Humfrey Hunt, John Elyotte, Thomas Wykyns, Robt. Scotte, Rychard Dowtye, James Lymney, John Style, Willm. Style, John Jakes, and Thomas Darbye on the other part,³ Reciting 3 deeds of John Wykyns, by which he enfeofed the said Robert Dyngleye and others of and in all his lands and tenements with appces in the townes and felde of Burcester, Buckenhulle, and Wendelberye, w^{ch} somtyme were one Willm. Dyster, of Burcester, and also all his londs and tents. in Sowthorne, otherwyse called Sowldorne, Newe Wodstock, and Stretton Audeleye in the countie of Oxon; and also of and in six tents. w^t theyr appces in Wallingford, in the countye of Berks, and also of and in too mesuages and one acre of lond wth th appces in Brackeleye, in the countye of North^h, where also as the seyd Henry more, by his dede berynge date the daye and yere of the seyd 3 deds of the seyd John Wykyns dyd also infeffe all the aforenamed persons of and in one messuage x acres of lond iiij acres of meade vi acres pasture wth the appces in Est pyrrye, otherwise called potterspyrrye in the said county of Northamp^h. by the seyd sev'all deds more pleynelye dothe appear.³ Be it known to all men by thes prsents that to the intent and purpose the use of the seyd ffeoffment maye the better be observed fullfilled and kept, it is covenated, condescended and agreed betwene tee seyd John Wykyns and Henrye more on the one partye, and all and every of the forenamed parsons feffes on the other partye in manner and forme folowing, That is to saye that they have elected and chosen Thomas Bodycotte, James Hoggeson, John Myllward and Humfrey Hunt, for this present yere nowe next ensuying to be the rulers and

¹ A number of old documents belonging to this charity have been preserved among the parish records. Mr. Dunkin in 1816 speaks of "the loose papers in the Wallingford chest. the only one I examined." In this loose condition all the old papers continued, until the compiler of this history in 1877 examined and arranged them. They are now preserved in one of the chests of the parish church.

² "An exemplification of a Recovery—under the great seal "dated at Westminster, 12 February, 20 Hen. viii, by which "John Bodycote, Benedict Wykkyn, Richard Sherman, Nicholas "Rowell, John More, senr., William Walker, and Henry More

"impleaded William Illing, concerning one messuage, 10 acres "of land, 4 acres meadow, and six acres of pasture, with appurte- "nances in Estpyree *alias* Potterspyree Yardeley and Cosegrove "in co. Northampton, &c., &c.

³ The old title deeds of some of these estates have been preserved among the papers belonging to this charity. Among them is a deed of sale of some land and houses in "Culdon," (Soulderne) dated 1430; of land in Potterspur, dated 1431 and 1479; of land in Brackley, 1467; and a tenement and garden in Wallingford, 1461. The gift of these lands therefore to this charity was subsequent to the latest of these dates.

gov'ners of all the seyde londs and tents aforespecyfyed and thissues and pfitts thereof to receve and the same to distrybute and dyspose as theye shall thynk meate and convenient by theyr dyscretions accordinge to suche uses and intents as in the said feoffments is specyfyed and declared. In wytness, &c. With seals of the feoffees appointed.

The value of the property mentioned is given in 1553.

A Rental of sowche landes and tenements as belong to the inhabitants of the towne Bissiter made in the vith year of the Raynye of Kinge Edwarde the sixte.

ffirst in pottesse perrye.	
John Hiliarde payeth bi the yeare . . . . .	.. xiiij ^s iiij ^d
In Brackelaye.	
Willi. podell payethe bi the year . . . . .	..... xviij ^s
In Sowlderne.	
Willi Rogers payeth bi the yeare	} x ^s
Thomas Rogers payeth bi the year	
In Straton Ardlaye.	
Thomas Jackman payeth bi the yeare . . . . .	..... iiij ^s
In Woodstok.	
Hewghe Humphre payeth bi the year . . . . .	..... xviiiij ^s
In Bisciter.	
John Coventrie payeth bi the year . . . . .	..... xxij ^s
In Wallengford.	
firste, Elpines widow payeth bi the yeare . . . . .	..... xviij ^s
Willi bowcher payeth bi the yeare . . . . .	..... x ^s
Tho lokke payeth bi the year . . . . .	..... xx ^s
Lawrance Scrivener payethe bi the year . . . . .	..... xiiij ^s iv ^d
Willi Jewell payethe bi the year . . . . .	..... xiiij ^s iv ^d
John molsard payeth bi the yeare . . . . .	..... ix ^s
Soma. viij ^{li} viij ^s viij ^d	

The purposes, for which this property was vested in Trustees (apparently 24 in number), are clearly defined, and in the same words through successive deeds;

"For the relief of the poor and indigent, in the marriage of poor virgins, in the "mending of the common ways, in payment of subsidies, 15ths, reliefs and aids of what kind "soever granted to the king now or in future for the most poor and indigent inhabitants "of the village of Bissiter, according to the discretion of two, three, or four of the above "feoffees who are to render an account to the rest."

The following is the earliest known account of the distribution of this charity,

1578.

Jhon Clarke & thomas peartor,
Collectores.

fyceareste geven to Wylliam More, of the Kyngesynd, beyng very syke. .ij^s
geven to a pore man that had loes be fyer..... iiij^d
geven to Vyckes for Jhon dooty xiiij moonths xij^d xiiij^s
geven to Rychard Harres beyng syke xij^d
payde for a payer of shoes for Jhon dooty xviij^d
payde for a payer of shoes for Margett' Spore..... xviij^d
payde for makyng over bon' xij^d

pad for mendyng the coverwaye	viiij ^d
pad for mendyng the pownereate	xiij ^d
geven to Ales Sinfy	vj ^d
geven to thomas Knytte	vj ^d
geven to a sarving man at the Requeste of the coonstestable	vj ^d
geven to Skilton wyfe when she laye in	iiij ^d
given to a man that had loes by fyer	iiij ^d
given to the hearde beyng syke	vi ^d
geven to Thearter's wyef beyng syke	vi ^d
for expenses at Wallyngford	iiij ^s ij ^d
payde to Vyckes for Rynggyn day bell and corfy	vi ^s 8 ^d
geven to a pore man that gathered for a mannes hoves	vij ^d
payde for a Rayle for the povne	iiij ^d
payde to Harry priste for cartyng the more dyc ^e	iiij ^s
payde for glasyng the wyndoes of the town hoves	xvij ^s 8 ^d
geven to Ales howell off ovxbvrge to her marreg ^e	v ^s
geven to Wyllyam Wood beyng syke	vi ^d
payde to Jhon plaste for	xvi ^s i ^d
payde for dressyng the harnes.	iiij ^s
for expenses at Wallyngford	ii ^s ij ^d
payd for qvit rents	iiij ^s ij ^d
payde to a pore man that had lose by fyer	vi ^d
Same ys iiij ^u vi ^s xi ^d	

Another account is extant among the parish papers of a distribution "geave by the handes of John Poter and Rafe Hunt to the pover of Bissiter, in the yeare of oure Lorde Gode, 1589," of small sums of money varying from 2d. to 6d. (in one case 1s. 6d.) to 141 poor men (each generally described as "good man") and women ("goodie") with these additional payments:

"Itm geave for making our bonde	iiij ^d
"Itm peaid for harie by the yeare for hies washing and tendinge	
"betiedes his keepinge	xx ^s
"Itm of card to Stolens wedinge	iiij ^d
"Itm gave to goodwyff Sowth	ij ^s vi ^d

Abuses crept in early into the management of this charity. A misapplication of its funds is apparent in the accounts of 1578, and still later it was found that a considerable part had been usually diverted to pay the molecatcher of the town his wages, to build a town house, to defray the sexton's wages, and other such unauthorized purposes. Complaints rightly arose, and application having been made to the Crown, Commissioners were appointed, (Sir William Spencer, Knt., John Welsborn,¹ Francis Ewer,² George Califord, and William Frere, Esqrs.) who on April 6th, 1598, opened an enquiry at Bicester. After reporting on the property of this charity, they directed that every poor and impotent inhabitant relieved by the feoffees shall be so relieved with the knowledge of the Vicar, Churchwardens, and four inhabitants of those rated highest in the subsidy books; that after these have been relieved, any profits remaining shall be applied to the marriage of poor maidens born in, and then inhabiting, the parish of Bicester, and that if there are no such maidens to be married, then with the like assent, to the mending of the public highways.

¹ Resident at Fulwell, in parish of Mixbury.

² Resident at Bucknell.

Further directions were given about the appointment of new feoffees, the management of the property, the audit of accounts, &c. These directions appear to have been faithfully fulfilled, and the Charity Commissioners appointed in the first quarter of the present century report that the rent of the property at that time had fallen a little below £200 per annum, and that the expenditure in the year of their report was about £208.

Changes have been made from time to time in the landed property of this charity, the old having been sold, and new acquired. In 1867 a donation of £1000 was made to it through the liberality of George Tubb, Esq., of Bicester. The income for the past year, ending June 1st, 1882, was £300 6s. 6d.

MARY CARLETON'S CHARITY.

By an indenture dated Nov. 28th, 1717, Mrs. Mary Carleton gave £2 2s. 6d from the rent of a close at Brill, in Bucks, to be paid to the Churchwardens yearly, on or before February 14th, on condition that a sermon should be preached on March 2nd, the anniversary of the death of her daughter Sarah Kennett, (wife of Dr. Kennett) of which the parish clerk was to give notice on the preceding Sunday; that the latter should also ring the great bell on the day of the sermon; and that on the said day after the sermon 40 sixpenny loaves of good wheat bread should be distributed among 40 of the poorest widows inhabiting Bicester, if there should be so many, and if not, to such other poor women as the Minister and Churchwardens should direct; and that the clerk of the said parish should keep clean the monuments of her late husband Robert Carver, and her said daughter, Sarah Kennett; with a proviso that if her intention here expressed was not in all respects observed, the said sum should be paid to the Minister, Churchwardens, and Clerk of Brill, with the like remainder in case of neglect to the parish of Ambrosden.

WILSON'S GIFT.

Mary Wilson, by will dated Dec. 17th, 1735, gave out of her estate in Market End, an annual payment of £1 10s., to be laid out in bread for the poor. Part of this estate was sold on May 21st, 1813, to the Honble. and Rev. Jacob Marsham, of Caversfield, and by an arrangement then made he undertook the payment of this charity, which has ever since been continued by his heirs.

POOR'S STOCK.

The origin of this fund is not certainly known. It appears, however, to have been the product of the sale of a house, described "as a cottage or tenement in Bicester over and "against the Causeway leading towards the Churchway,"¹ and which in all probability was the "Church House" of the days before the Reformation, sold by the Churchwardens in the course of the last century. The sum of £50 paid to the Churchwardens was invested in the purchase of £49 18s. 9d. 5 per cent annuities, and the dividends of this sum are distributed to the poor of Market End.

¹ It is recited in a deed (drawn up for the security of John Humphreys, who bought the house in 1803) that in 1767 Jasper Robins sold this house to John Stratton for £50; that Stratton did not pay the capital sum but the interest of it only during his

life time, and that after his death in 1792 the sum of £50 was paid by his executors to the churchwardens,

See Charity Commissioners' Report (1815—39) vol. xxvi.

THE BAILIWICK.

The bailiwick, previously let for £51 per ann., produced only £21 14s. per ann. at the end of the last century, In 1800 this was reduced to £21 per ann. At that time, and for some years later, all cattle brought to market were subjected to a toll, of ½d. per head of sheep, of 2d. or 3d. per head of oxen, horses, and other animals, payable to the shareholders of the bailiwick. Custom only had established this tax, which becoming obnoxious was at length suffered to drop. The only tolls still payable from fairs and markets are those granted in 1440, for breaking the ground (piccage), erecting stalls (stallage), or booths (boothage), with the exception of that for the sale of grain (tollage), which has become extinct, but, the expense of collecting these being almost as much as the tolls, most of them have been abandoned. Thus the bailiwick has become of little more than nominal value, the only profits remaining being the rent of 2 cottages, and a payment of £1 per annum from the tithing man.¹ It consists at the present time of 32 undivided shares, all of which, excepting 4 which belong to the poor,² are vested in private persons.

WEEKLY BREAD.

We are not able, say the Charity Commissioners, to ascertain the origin of this charity. It had been paid regularly for many years by the owners of a messuage, tenement, and bakehouse in St. John's Street, when the premises were purchased in 1796 by Mr. Henry Walford, a solicitor. Mr. Walford nominates 6 poor widows of Market-end, and they receive from a baker in the town 6 two-penny loaves every Sunday.

WALKER'S CHARITY.

By an indenture dated Oct. 30th, 1811, John Walker, of Hackney, Middlesex, had expressed his intention of settling £1000, 3 per cent consols, in trust, that the proceeds should be applied to the maintenance of the Charity School, and the 2 Sunday Schools, to which he had long been a subscriber. Though no mention was made of this intention in his will, it was honourably fulfilled by his son William Walker, who conveyed the sum mentioned to certain trustees (Sir Henry Watkin Dashwood, J. Coker, Esq., Thomas Davis the elder, John Kirby, George Osmond, Richard Smith, Thomas Davis the younger, John Blake Kirby, and Thomas Tubb) on condition that they should apply £16 per annum towards the supporting of a charity school for educating and clothing poor boys born in the parish of Bicester, or in some of the adjacent parishes, in the principles of the Church of England, and to read, write, and cast accounts, and say their catechism; and for the supply of the said school with an able and fit schoolmaster, and the preventing and punishing neglects, and misdemeanours in the said schoolmaster and scholars, &c.; that the Trustees should meet annually in the schoolroom on Tuesday in Easter week, and examine into the conduct of the schoolmaster and children—that £7 per annum should be applied towards supporting a Sunday School for the education of such poor children as aforesaid in

¹ From an allotment of land (3a. 2r. 8p.) assigned to that officer at the enclosure of Market-end.

² So long as the yearly income allowed it, these were distributed

in clothing, once in every 5 or 6 years. In 1819, at Christmas, £5 17s. was thus given away to 20 poor women in Market-end, and a proportionate sum to those in King's-end.

the principles of the Church of England, and in reading, writing, casting accounts, and their Catechism; and that a like sum, being the residue of the said dividends, should be applied in maintaining the Sunday School managed and conducted by the dissenting congregation at the meeting house in Waterlane.

LOST CHARITIES.

John Hart, by will dated May 12th, 1664, left several rentcharges on his estates in Oxon for charitable purposes. Among these was one of £10 payable to the Churchwardens, and Overseers of Bicester, for binding out poor boys as apprentices. Nothing of this was ever received, and, as the testator had only a leasehold interest in the estates charged with these payments, the bequest was void.

Sir John Grantham, Knight, in the condition of a bond dated March 13th, 1714, left by his will £50 to John Burroughs, and directed that the yearly interest of this sum should be distributed at Xmas among such poor widows of the parish of Bicester as the Vicar, Churchwardens and Overseers should think proper objects. Among the parish papers there is an account of the distribution of the accumulated interest of this charity in clothing to 8 poor persons in 1750, but John Burroughs having failed to pay the capital sum, and his son becoming insolvent, this charity was afterwards lost.

A monument on the N side of the nave of the parish church preserves the name of the donor.

"Spe resurgendi;

"Juxta depositi sunt cineres Thomæ Grantham Equitis aurati, natus in hac parochia de Bissister Obiit Sunburice in Comitatu Middx., Anno Œtatis Suæ LXXX, Salutisque humane MDCCXVIII.

"Grantham Andrews de Sunbury Nepos ex filia unicus et Hæres summa pietate et gratitudine erga Parentem et Benefactorem munificentissimum hoc monumentum posuit.

BURROUGH'S GIFT.

In a letter addressed by Thomas, Bishop of Oxford, dated August 28th, 1738, to the vicar of Bicester, Mr. Airson, it is mentioned that Richard Burroughs had given by will £10 per annum to the poor. Nothing is known of this charity beyond what appears in this letter.¹

¹ There is probably some confusion between this supposed gift, Burrough's for the payment of the interest due on Sir J. Grantham's and the bond given to Mr. Airson by some relation of John bequest.

WRECCWIC, WRETCHWICK.

Gilbert Bassett, the second of that name, gave half of his manor of Wrecwic¹ as a marriage portion to his daughter Eustace, and the other half he left as dowry to his widow Egeline de Courteney. The latter, probably on the ground of her second marriage, claimed her daughter's portion, and, after a trial,² gained her claim. Becoming thus possessed of the whole manor, she gave that moiety of it, which was her's by her husband's bequest, to the Priory, which she had helped to found.

A. D. 1210.

"To all the sons of Holy Mother Church, to whom the present writing shall come, the "noble lady Egeline de Courtnai, sends greeting in the Lord. Let it be known to all of "you that I have given, granted, and by this my present charter confirmed, to GOD and the "Church of St. Mary and St. Edburg, of Burncester, and the Canons serving God there, for "the soul of my lord Gilbert Bassett, and for the soul of my son Thomas Bassett, and for the "soul of Richard de Camvill, son of Eustace Bassett, my daughter, and for the souls of our "ancestors, half the land of my dowry, in my manor of Wrechwic, with all the wood of Gravenhull "namely that full moiety of Wrechwic, with all its appurtenances, which the aforesaid "Gilbert Bassett of good memory retained for himself at the time when he gave the "aforesaid Eustace Bassett, with the other moiety of Wrechwic, in marriage to Thomas "de Verdon, &c., to have and to hold free, &c.

"These being witnesses, Richard de Camvil, Eustace Bassett his wife, Thomas Bassett, "Alan Bassett, Robert de Aumary, Robert his son, Ralph de Aumary, clerk, Ralph de "Marchehamel, Robert de Rokeby, Robert de Bakepuz, Robert and Master Lawrence, clerks, "and many others."³

At Egeline de Courteney's death, the remaining moiety of this manor reverted to her daughter and her second husband Richard de Camville. From them it descended to their only child Idonea, the wife of William de Longspe, from whom it passed to their only daughter Ela, the wife of Lord Aldithley or Audley, who gave it, after her husband's death in 1271, to the same hands as already possessed the other moiety.

¹ For the meaning of this name see Early History of the Deanery of Bicester p. 29.

² "Egeline, widow of Gilbert Bassett, claimed the manor of "Wrechwic for part of her dowry against Richard de Camvill, "and Eustace his wife, who were indebted now to the king one "mark to obtain leave for a new trial for this their freehold of "Wreckwick.


"Oxenefordseire Tom Basset Vic. Nov. Oblata.

"Ricardus de Camvil and Eustacia uxor ejus debent i marcam "pro habenda recognitione novae assise de libero tenemento suo "Wrechwisc versus Egilenam de Curtenai." (Kennett's P.A., Ano. MCCX.

³ Ibid.

"Know all &c., that I Ela de Audithel, formerly the wife of the Lord James de Audithel of famous memory, deceased, have given &c. &c., in free and pure and perpetual alms, all my land, which I had or could in any way have, in the village of Wrechwick in the County of Oxford, of the gift of my father, the lord William Longspe, with the messuages, villeinages, rents, meadows, pastures, free customs, and all other appurtenances to the said land belonging, to have and to hold &c., quit and free of all services, customs, suits of courts, and secular demands, &c."

"These being witnesses, the Lords Roger de Aumary, Walter de Langel, Richard de Povre, Knights, Adam le Gait, William de Avenor, John la Balioner, William la Megre, Robert Clerk of Berncester, and others."

Seal, figure of a woman erect, bearing in one hand the arms of Audley, Frette, and in the other the arms of Longspe, six lions rampant, with the inscription  Sigillum Ele de Aldethley.

A small property within this manor still remained in other hands,¹ but in 1277 the owner, Richard de la Vache, made it over to the Priory of Burncester.²

Thus the whole manor became the property of the Priory before the end of the XIIIth century. A part of it was rich meadow land, which had been at a very early date enclosed for pasture. This being an enclosure in the midst of woodland, was called "Le Breke," or "Breche," *i.e.* The Woodland Close.³ Here the Priory kept a dairy through all the years they possessed this estate. The arable land consisted of about seven carucates=28 virgates=373 acres, of which 10 virgates=135 acres, were held as demesne lands, and 18=243 acres were in the occupation of 25 tenants, some smaller pieces, attached to cottages, being in the hands of seven other persons. These particulars are gathered from the Hundred Returns in 1279.


"WREHTHEWIKE"

"The Prior of Burncester holds the hamlet of Wrethewike of the Earl of Lincoln, and the same Earl of the Earl of Cornwall, of the Honour of Wallingfordie, and the same of the lord the King in capite, and he holds in demesne x virgates, and he holds the said hamlet of the gift of William Longspe in pure and perpetual alms."

"VILLEINS."

"Robert de la Brece holds j virgate of land in the aforesaid hamlet of the aforesaid Prior of the

¹ "About this time Hamo de Gattone granted and confirmed to Richard de la Vache one messuage and all the lands, and meadow, and all villanes and their tenements, &c., in the village of Wrechwike, which descended to him by the death of Hamo de Gattone his unkle, to be held for the service of one penny yearly at Michaelmas, and to the Capital lords of the fee one penny or one pair of gloves to the value of one penny. For which grant the said Hamo de Gattone received the full sum of £100 sterling." (Kennett's P.A., Anno. MCCI.XX.)

² To the original indenture a seal appends with the impress of three lions rampant, with this inscription:— Sigill, Ricardi de la Vache. The same grant was recited and confirmed by Richard de la Vache in another charter, dated at Chalfunt, in the octave of the assumption of the Virgin, 5 Edw. I; and again by a deed

dated at Burncester, May 20th, 16 Edw. III, with the same coat of arms and seal attached. Kennett's Par. Ant., Anno.MCCLXXVII, MCCCXLII.

³ *Brache* is probably from the French *broce*, a thicket or covert of brushwood. Near Basingssoke, in Hants, there is a farm, in the midst of woods and downs, called Breche, or The Breche, *i.e.* the enclosed ground. (Warton's History of Kiddington.)

In the Lincoln Registers, in an award, dated 1480, for uniting the parochial and conventual Churches of Chetwode, Bucks, it is said that the parishioners are to have free passage through a certain close called "Church-breche;" also to have access to the Church through another close called "Town Breche." (Willis's History of Bucks, p. 347.)

"fee of the Earl of Lincoln, and it is worth with works and rents x^a . and the same does
"suit at the court of the aforesaid Prior in villeinage at the will of the Prior."

"John de Merton holds 1 virgate of land in the same way
 "William de Hockle $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate..... for v^a
 "Thomas de Kertlington..... in same way
 "Gilbert de Waleys.....
 "Robert de Becheleye..... 1 virgate..... for x^a
 "Robert de Buckelhulle in same way
 "Hugh, Gilbert's son..... $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate..... for v^a
 "Richard Chapman in same way
 "William le Glyt.....
 "John de Thochewik
 "Walter Hosgod
 "Hugh le Frere..... 1 virgate for x^a
 "Lawrence in same way
 "Gilbert Hewey..... $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate for v^a
 "John Bernhull..... in same way
 "Hugh Osmund..... 1 virgate for x^a
 "Hugh le Fowel..... $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate for v^a
 "Richard de le Stilele..... in same way
 "John de Waleys 1 virgate for x^a
 "John le Fowel 1 virgate in same way
 "Walter Steyge..... in same way
 "Hugh Ailwot.....
 "Richard Harepe.....
 "William Seriht..... for x^a reckoning rent and works"

"OF COTTAGERS."

"Peter le Horpinden holds 1 cotlond in villeinage and it is worth
 yearly with rents and works iiiij^a
 "Walter Hosgod in same way
 "Letitia Bidon holds 1 cottage..... for ij^a
 "William Alewy..... for j^a., vj^d
 "Emma..... for xij^d
 "Philip, the Merchant for xij^d
 "Stephen for xij^d

The yearly value of this estate is given in Pope Nicholas' Taxation (1291)

"The Prior of Burncestre has in Wrechewik, in lands, rents, a mill, meadows, pannage, and
 "a court, £2 2s. 8d."

Twenty years later, in 1310, it was reckoned at £20 per annum.

The occupiers of land just mentioned probably resided in Burncester, the only residents of Wreccwic being the dairyman and a few cottagers. That there were a few dwelling houses standing not far distant from each other is evident from the name of Hamlet being given to the place. But the ground was still much occupied by trees and so surrounded by woodland, that it afforded not only acorns and other food for pigs in autumn but a shelter for all kinds of wild game, whereby it became a favourite hunting ground.

The honey made here by wild bees was a source of some profit. At a Court Baron held in 1382, a bye-law was made "to reinforce all the orders which had been formerly made for
 "the regulation of hunting, under a penalty of 2s. for every offence. And whereas it was found

"that the tenants' bees had been much disturbed by the huntsmen, it was provided that no such further molestation should be given under a penalty of XL^d for every such trespass. And Robert Puff and John Cups were appointed keepers of the game within the liberties of Wreckwike."

Some records of the Courts Baron for this Manor, held at Burcester in the year 1343, 1344, 1348, 1382, are given in Kennett's P.A.; and some accounts of the dairyman (deye) in Dunkin's History of Bicester. Two accounts of the latter for the years 1407, and 1408, are preserved among the Burcester Priory Rolls in the Record Office, hitherto unpublished, but these contain only the usual items of similar accounts.

Almost all the houses of the hamlet were pulled down, and their inhabitants turned adrift, probably in the course of the XVIth century, when enclosures were becoming frequent, and even villages were occasionally destroyed for the purpose of utilising their sites for pasture.¹

Nothing now remains of the old hamlet except three isolated farm-houses, which tell of better days gone by. The old name is still truly descriptive of the spot, its few inhabitants (34 in the census of 1831) being far out of the way of their fellow creatures, and accessible only by footpaths and field-roads.

¹ In his application to the Court of Chancery in 1608, the vicar complained "That whereas also the said manor or hamlett of Wretchweek had been heretofore well manured, and inhabited with at least 30 several tenants or householders, freeholders, or coppieholders, and leaseholders, whose small tithes yearly would at this day be worth unto the vicar of the said vicaridge 100 marks at the least, the said mannor or hamlet was now depopulated, and the same was come whollie to the hands and possession of them the said defendants, &c., &c. To this the defendant made answer "And touching the depopulation of

"the manor of Wretchweek there never was any such tenants or depopulating of the said hamlett in his time since the dissolution of the said Priory, but if any such conversion were from village to pasture as the complainant pretendeth, the same was done (as he the defendant had been informed) many years since, and the conversion thereof was no prejudice to the complainant, for the lands being freed of payment of tithes before the conversion thereof could not now make the same chargeable with the payment of tithes." Kennett's P.A., MCCCCXIII. New Ed.



BIGENHULLE, BIGGEHULLE, BIGNEL.

KING'S END.

It is not easy to understand why the settlers at Burncestre did not take possession of all the land immediately surrounding their village. Perhaps they did so at first, but it is certain that at some time before the Domesday survey¹ the broad plateau of rising ground extending Westwards from the brook at Burncestre to the Gagol stream flowing from Middleton, had been detached from the settlement at Burncestre, and become a separate property belonging to the lords of Kirtlington.²

A manor house was early erected on the side of this ground nearest to Kirtlington, which, probably, led to the name assigned to it, Bigenhulle, or Biggehulle, the hill inhabited or built upon.³

The first known lord of Bigenhulle Manor was James le Bret, resident in the manor house in the first quarter of the XIIIth century. This house, like other manorial residences distant from their parish churches, had, by the special licence of the Bishop, a Chapel or Oratory attached to it. There is some reason to suppose that this chapel was dedicated to S. Faith, Virgin and Martyr.⁴ It was served by clergy from the Priory at Burncester, for whose convenience a vestry was attached. James le Bret gave three separate grants of land within this manor to the Priory of Burncester, and it is probable that he was also the donor of the land which the Nunnery in Bedfordshire possessed here. His descendants appear to have held this manor for half a century after his death, for about the year 1273 there was a trial, in which William de L'Isle recovered the right of presentation to the neighbouring church of Chesterton against the claim of John le Bret.

The workpeople, and occupiers of land, in this manor fixed their dwellings, for convenience sake, close to the village of Burncester, on the side opposite to their lord's residence, and a footway still existing led straight from one to the other. As the two streams, which bounded this manor, were already in the hands of the owners of the adjoining manors, the lords of Bigenhulle had no power to establish a water-mill.⁵ It was not therefore until wind-mills had been introduced, in the early part of the XIIIth century, that one was built at Bigenhulle, the first in this district. It is probable that this mill stood on the spot near the Middleton road, where a mill has stood beyond all memory, the ruined shell of the last having been blown down by the great storm of Oct. 14th, 1881.

¹ Bigenhulle is not mentioned in Domesday, it being then included in Kirtlington manor.

² The Roman road running thence to Chesterton, there was but a step across the Gagol stream to this land.

³ A. S. byggan to build, to inhabit; Icelandic byggja: Dan. bygge, Scotch and N English to 'big,' i.e. to build. The word 'bigg' is used by Richard de Hampole, about the date 1340 (Edw. III) in the sense of built up, well furnished, well endowed in opposition to the word bare.

Another supposition is tenable that this name is derived from the Danish "byg," barley, a word still in use in the North of England, and that it therefore meant Barley Hill.

In the "Early History" of this Deanery, the writer supposed the original name to have been Burnehulle, but this now appears to him questionable. If, however, it was so, it was probably taken as Burnceaster from burne the brook.

⁴ Constant mention occurs of S. Faith as the residence of persons belonging to this district, and some persons described in one place as of Bigenhulle seem the same as those elsewhere described as of St. Faith.

⁵ The right of having a water mill was a franchise, and could not be invaded without liability to action for damage or fine in the manor court.

The Returns from the Hundreds in 1279 show the growth of this little village.

"Bigehulle part of Curtlington. Walter de Langgeleye holds the hamlet of Biggehulle, of the heir of Philip Bassett, of the fee of Curtlington by the 4th part of a knight's fee and they owe suit at the Court of Curtlington every three weeks. And he holds in demesne 2 carucates of land with meadow and pasture, and one wind-mill which is worth xiijs^s iiij^d yearly."

"VILLEINS."

"Nicholas at the well¹ holds of the same Walter j virgate of land for ij^s ij^d yearly; he will work; and pay tallage and work at the will of the lord."

"William Seberne holds of the same as much in the same way."

"William Hamund, &c., William the Reeve, &c., Roger of Wygynton, &c., John, Gilbert's son, &c., John Hawenild, &c., John Michel, &c., Thomas, William's son, &c., Gilbert of Stratton, &c., Alice, Gilbert's relict, &c., Lucy, the widow, &c."

"FREEMEN."

"Simon Germeyn² holds of the same j virgate of land freely for vi^s viij^d yearly, and does his lord's suit of court every three weeks."

William Niger holds of the same j virgate of land for v^s yearly, and suit as above.

"John of the forde holds $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate of land of the same for ij^s vj^d yearly and suit as above."

"Walter le Frenkeleyn³ holds of the same $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate of land for vj^s viij^d yearly and suit as above."

"John, Robert's son, holds of the same j virgate of land for vj^s viij^d yearly, and suit as above."

"John Pistor⁴ holds of the same $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate of land for x^s yearly, and suit as above."

"The Prior of Burnecestre of the same xvj acres of land in pure and perpetual alms."

"The Prioress of the Cell holds of the same j carucate of land in pure and perpetual alms."

"VILLEINS."

"Robert, Eli's son, holds of the same Prioress j virgate of land for v^s yearly; he will work, and pay tallage, and redeem his sons at the will of the lord."

"John Walter holds of the same $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate of land for ij^s vj^d; he will work, pay tallage, and redeem his sons as above."

"William Caleware holds of the same as much in the same way."

"Nicholas at the well, &c., John Grey, &c., Gilbert of Bigehulle, &c., John Kanal, &c., Walter Kanal, &c., Robert Michel, &c., Simon Frend, &c., Nicholas the Hyweman, &c."

¹ In the printed copy of the Hundred Rolls the words are "Nicholas ad pontem," but this is evidently a mistake for "Nicholas ad fontem." The well was probably Crockwell.

² A deed conveying 2 messuages and a cottage in Berencester to "Christian, daughter of Simon Germayn of Bigenhull, and "William her son" is given in Kennett's P.A., Ao: MCCCXIX.

³ A deed of his conveying a messuage and an acre of land to

his brother in law is given in Kennett's P.A., Ano. MCCCXXII. But Kennett is wrong in placing this so early, for from many of the persons named in it being the same as those mentioned in the Returns from the Hundreds, it evidently belongs to a later date.

⁴ That is the miller or baker, properly one who grinds corn in a hand-mill, or pounds it in a mortar.

This hamlet therefore at the end of the XIIIth century contained the lord of the manor, 6 freeholders, and 12 inferior tenants appurtenant to the manor, and 10 others who were in the occupation of land belonging to the nunnery of Merkyate, making an adult male population of 29, and a probable general population of a little over 100 persons.

In the XIVth century it grew to sufficient size and importance to have its claim for a fair and a market recognized, and in 1367, the first year of king Richard IInd's reign, the royal licence for these was granted.

"The King to the Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Dukes, Counts, Barons, Justices, Sheriffs, Ministers, and all Bailiffs, and all others our faithful subjects, Know ye, that of our special favour we have granted, and by this our charter have confirmed, for ourselves, and for our heirs, to our beloved and faithful subject John de Worthe, Knt., that he and his heirs for ever shall have at their manor of Bigenhull, at Burcestre, one Market on Monday in every week, and one fair in every year to continue for three days, namely the vigil, the day, and the morrow of St. James, the Apostle. Nevertheless that market and fair shall not be to the damage of the neighbouring markets and fairs. Wherefore we will, and do strictly command, that the said John and his heirs for ever shall have one market on Monday in every week, and one fair in every year for three days as aforesaid. Witness the Honourable Fathers S. Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England, W. London; H. Worcester, Chancellor, and Thomas Exeter, Treasurer, our Bishops, John King, of Castile and Lyons, Duke of Lancaster, Mortimer, March and others."

"Given under our hands at Westminster, the 20th day of October."

"By writ of privy seal."¹

The first inhabitants of Bigenhulle were too few to need a separate Church, and their nearness to Burncester necessarily threw them under the charge of the Clergy of the larger village. The village therefore, and the hamlet were in very early times incorporated into one parish, though for all other than ecclesiastical purposes they remained distinct.

In the XIVth century this hamlet, from its connection with Kirtlington, came to be included within the possessions of the Dukes of Lancaster, and when in 1399 Henry Plantagenet, son and heir of John Plantagenet (surnamed of "Gaunt") succeeded to the throne as King Henry IVth, it became like his other possessions merged in the Crown.² Hence in the beginning of the XVth century it came to be called "King's End," about the same time as the end of Burncester village farthest from it was known as "Bury-end."

Being included within the Duchy of Lancaster, the residents within this hamlet became entitled to all the privileges which were granted to those of that duchy. These were (1) freedom from toll on the produce of their land and from pannage; (2) free passage over the sea and rivers; (3) free lading of ships; (4) free packing of goods; (5) liberty to break the ground and to erect stalls in fairs and markets without cost; (6) freedom from general taxes and other

¹ Calendar of Charter Rolls, Chart, Ao. I, Ric. II, "Pars unica Number 26.

"Joh'es Worth Ch'r.

Biginghull in Burcester mereat feria, Oxon."

This grant of a fair and market was confirmed by King Henry

VI, in a deed dated July 13th, 1438.

² The Duchy of Lancaster was by an Act in the first year of king Edward IV, vested in the said king and his heirs to hold as a separate inheritance, but annexed to the Crown.

subsidies; (7) from carting; (8) from ploughing and reaping in all places in England except within the limits of the Duchy. These various privileges had been granted by Edward III on May 7th, 1345, to John of Gaunt and Blanch his wife, to all his heirs and descendants. The same were confirmed by succeeding sovereigns, especially by Edward IVth, in the parliament held at Westminster on Nov. 4th, 1471, and by Q. Elizabeth, who, also by a special grant given at Westminster on February 10th, 1562, named "all our men and tenants, inhabitants, "and residents of and in the villages and lordships of Kyrtington and Byrster Kinghyende, "and of and in all the members of the same, which are panels of our aforesaid Duchy of "Lancaster," as admitted to the same.¹

RESIDENTS IN THE MANOR HOUSE,

Walter de Langley, Ob. 1280.

Alice de Langley, his widow.²

Walter de Langley, living in 1317.³

John de Langley, living in 1325.⁴

Sir Richard le Vache,

whose ancestors had possessed a freehold property in Burncestre and Wrechwic in the previous century. In 1360 he was described as "lord of Bigenhull, in Burcester," and in that year was appointed, with Sir Miles Stapleton lord of the adjoining manor of Middleton, one of the English Commissioners in the great treaty of peace between England and France. In 1363 he obtained from the king, Edward III, a grant of free warren in all his demesne lands in Ashedon, Aston Clinton, Wendover, Chalfhunt St. Giles' and Chalfhunt St. Peter's in Com. Bucks."

The arms of this family were Gules 3 lions argent with a label, cheque, Or and Azure.

Sir John de Worthe, Knight, living in 1377.⁵

John Felmersham, living in 1438.⁶

¹ Rawl. M.S.' B. 180 fol. 124 in Bodleian Library. The writer has prefaced the copy of this charter with this caution, "Ceterum cavendum est ne de toto oppido, sive tota villata "Burncestrice accipias Chartam, quum ad eam partem duntaxat "se extendat quoe Bicester King's-end vulgo audit, aliter atque "voluisse videtur ille, qui a tergo membrance scripsit 'A Charter "for Kirtlington, and Bicester to be freed of Tole but in the "Duchie of Lankaster."

"The late Mr. Egerton, steward to the former and present lord "of the manor, informed me that one day a stranger exposed his "goods for sale in King's-end fair, but refused to pay the toll, "asserting he was an inhabitant of the Duchy of Lancaster, and "producing a paper, which he affirmed was a copy of a charter "granting to all inhabitants of those domains freedom from toll in "all markets and fairs throughout England. Mr. Egerton rebutted "the claims of the stranger by remarking that the exemption was "limited to places without the domains of the Duchy, and consequently did not apply to King's-end, which the stranger

"admitted." Dunkin's History of Bicester, p 136, note."

² She granted a plot of ground in Bercester to Thomas, son of Matthew, of Bercester, with full liberty to give or sell the same to any person, except the religious (i.e. those belonging to a religious order) and Jews, reserving the suit and service of her court and mill of Bigenhulle, with the toll of the corn and malt, for half a mark off hand, and a yearly rent of 2 shillings.—Kennett's P.A., Ao., MCCLXXX.

³ Made a grant of land in Berencestre in that year. The deed, dated " Bigenhulle, on the morrow after the feast of St. Michael 10 "Edw. II," written in French, is given in Kennett's P.A., sub. h. Ao

⁴ Mentioned among the tenants of Berencester Manor, 18 19, Edw. II.

"Geoffrey de Langleye, son of the lord John de Langleye, lord "of Bigenhulle, holds one messuage and one yard land with a "meadow in Berencester, which is called le Palmersland, &c."

⁵ Grant of a market and fair made to him in that year.

⁶ See the Priory Sacristan's accounts of that year.

The Superior lord of this manor at this time was Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, created Duke of Buckingham (1403-59).¹

John Stokys, Esq. In 1454 he obtained a special licence² for the marriage of his daughter with William Harcourt, Esq.,³ to be solemnized within the chapel of his house. After his death his widow succeeded to his property, and after her death (about 1480) it was escheated to the Crown.⁴ It was then granted to

William Staveley, Esq., who then resided in the Manor House until his death.

"By his last will⁵ and testament, dated June 8th, 1498, and proved Nov. 1st, in that year, he bequeathed his body to be buried in the chancel of the Parish Church of Burcestre; "gave to the Priory there xxvi^s., viij^d.; directed that his manor of Broghton, in Bucks, which "he purchased of Sir — Tresham, and his manor of Bigenhull, which he purchased of John "Stokys, Esq., in Com. Oxon, should continue to Alice, his wife, for her life, with remainder "to George Staveley, Esq., his son and heir, with remainder to University College, in Oxford, "leaving two other younger sons, William and John, and two daughters, Mary⁶ and Isabel."

He was buried according to his directions, and two years later his widow was buried by his side. A brass plate, the oldest now existing in the Parish Church, still perpetuates their memory.

"In the chancell against the north wall a great gray marble raised monument, on a plate of "brasse affixed to the wall, is this

"Orate pro aiabus Willi Staveley armigi quondam dni de bygnell et Aliciæ uxoris ejus filicæ "et uni⁸ heredis dni Johis Fraunces militis, et dnæ Isabelloc uxoris ejus filicæ et heredis dni "Henrici Plesyngton militis, qui quidem Willus obiit decimo die Octobris Ao. Dni. "MCCCCLXXXVIII, predica vero Alicia obiit xx die Octobris Ao. dni MVc quorum "aiabus, &c."⁷

¹ The market and fair were regranted to him in 1438.

"H. Com. Stafford."

"Confirm pat. H. 6. Ao. 17, p. 2, m. 24. Bigenhulle maner' in "Burcestr' mercat feria."

"The King to all, &c. We have inspected the charter of the "lord Richard, late king of England, the second after the Conquest "made in these words,

"Richard, by the grace of God, &c. Now we ratifying, and "being pleased with the aforesaid Charter, and all and everything "contained in the same, do for ourselves and our heirs, as much "as in us lies, accept, approve, and confirm them to our very dear "kinsman Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, and John Felmersham, "now tenant of the aforesaid manor, as the aforesaid Charter fairly "testifies. In testimony whereof, &c. Witness the King at "Westminster, XIIIth day of July. For half a mark paid in the "Exchequer."

Charter Rolls, given in Kennett's P.A., Ao. MCCCCLX.

² 11th Jun. 1454. Dns concessit licentiam Vicario ecclie de Bygnell ad solemnizandum matrimonium inter Willi Harcourt armig. et Elizh Stokys filiam Joh. Stokys in capella infra manerium dci Joh. Stokys infra parochiam de Burchestr, situat, dum tamen nulli p.hoc fiat prejudicium. f. 14.—Mem. Joh. Chedworth.

John Stokes is mentioned in the Priory Bursar's accounts of 1433, as remitting the rent of a field due to him as "lord of

"Bygnhull." He may therefore be the same person as John Felmersham.

³ The Harcourt coat of arms was to be seen in the windows of the parish church as late as 1660.

⁴ 19 Edw. IV. Inq. p. mort. Alicia, quæ fuit uxor Joh'is Stokes, Bygynhull maner'

Burcester	} divers'	} Oxon.
et		
Bygynhull	} mess'	} Oxon.
Kyrtlington maner'		
Wiggeham	} terr' &c.	} Berks.
Wyndesore cartr.'		
Harewell ten' voc' Bayloblys		
Walynghford honor'	} memb'	} Berks.

⁵ Kennett's P.A., Ano. MCCCCLX.

⁶ Married Thomas Giffard, Esq., of Twyford in this neighbourhood. A brass plate still exists in that Church bearing the following inscription.

"Here lyeth buried the Bodyes of Thomas Giffard, of Twiffard "in the Countye of Buck, Esquyer, and Marie his wyffe, Daughter "of Wyllam Staveley, of Bignell, Esquyer, which Thomas "decessyd the xxvth day of November, in the year of o'r lorde "God MCCCCCL. On whose soules Jhu have mercy, amen.

⁷ Thus described in "Monumental Inscriptions in the Counties of Bucks, Berks, and Oxon, 1660," in British Museum Bibl. Hart. 4170. Plut. xlix b.

I Arg. on a chevron Az between three lozenges, Sa. three bucks' heads cabossed (untinctured)—Staveley.

II Quarterly 1 Arg. a chevron between three eagles, displayed Gu.—Francis.

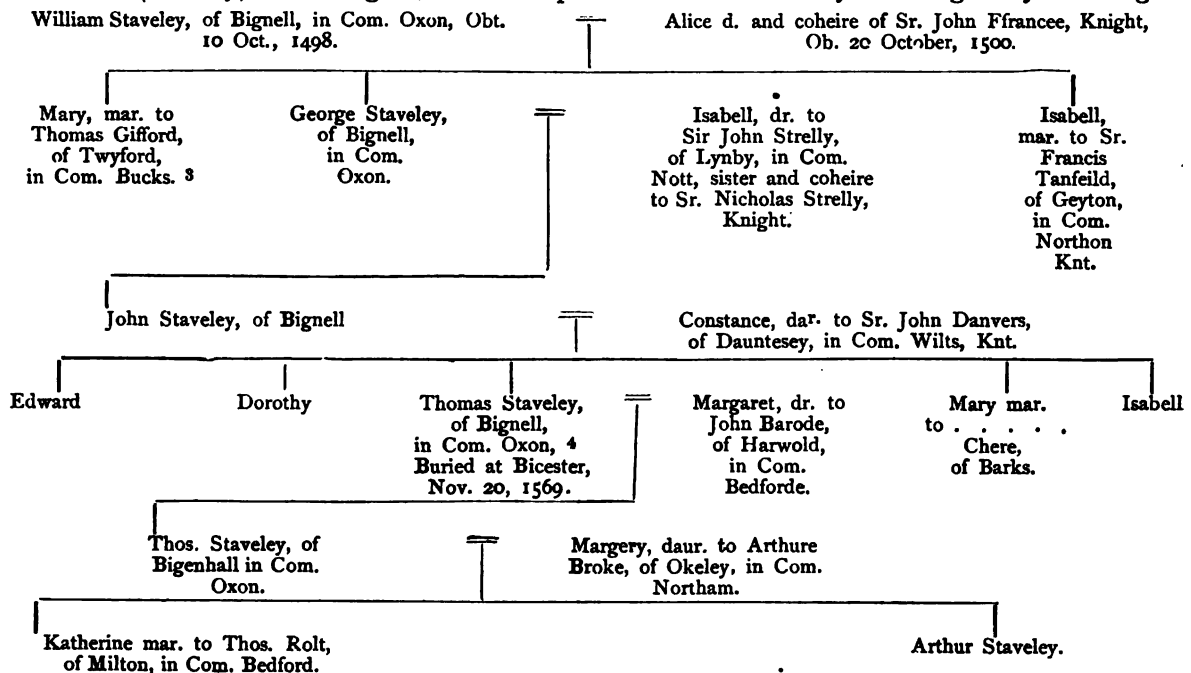
2 and 3 Az. a cross patonce between four martlets, Arg. (Plessington) 4 Arg., a lion rampant, Or., debruised by a bend gobony, Or and¹

George Staveley, Esq. "George Staveley, of Bigenhull, did in 17 Hen. VIII, Ano. 1525, "give to University College, in Oxford, the sum of £50, on these terms agreed on between him "and the said Society, That with that money land should be purchased to the yearly revenue "of 50^s of which rent 2s. ,, 8d. should be yearly paid to one of the Fellows in sacred Orders "to say Mass, as oft as he pleased at the S. altar of the Chapel for the souls of the said George "Staveley, Isabel, his wife,² John Staveley, and other their friends; of the remainder 3s. ,, 4d. "should be allow'd upon the anniversary of his death to the Master and Fellows for the increase "of their commons; 2d. to the manciple, 2d. to the head cook, and 4d. to the bible clerk; the "overplus to be on the same day divided between the Master and Fellows."³

George Staveley's descendants to the third generation succeeded to the possession of the Bigenhull estate. The following pedigree, put in by the last possessor at the Herald's Visitation in 1574, shows the order of succession.

STAVELEY OF BIGENHALL.

Arms. Quarterly of one and six argent, on a chevron azure between three lozenges, three bucks' faces cabossed or (Staveley.) 2. Argent, a chevron between three eagles displayed gules (Francis). 3. Azure, a cross fleurée between four martlets argent (Plessington). 4. Paly of six or and azure (Strelley). 6. Argent, a lion rampant azure debruised by a bend gobony or and gules.



¹ These arms are also given in Church Notes, by Richard Lee, Portcullis, &c., in 1574.

² Isabel Staveley afterwards married the father of John Longland, who became Principal of Magdalen Hall, Oxford, and

afterwards Bishop of Lincoln (1521-47) as appears from her will.—Kennett's M.S. Collect, Lansdowne M.S.S., vol II, p. 992.

³ Kennett's P.A., Ano. MCCCCLX.

At the beginning of the XVIIIth century this estate became the property of Mr. Woodward then resident at Stratton Audley. The manor house was then occupied by the farmer, who rented the adjoining land. Being on the confines of the village it was an important feature in the old custom of beating the parish bounds. On one of the Rogation days in each year the Clergy, Churchwardens, and others went in procession, carrying white wands, to beat every stone, building, or other object which marked the limits of their parish. A good deal of merriment generally accompanied these perambulations, a common amusement being to bump the boys against the boundary stones, the better to impress their position on their memories. An entry in the records of the Archdeacon of Oxford's Court alludes to this custom here.

March 25, 1639.

"contra Iohannem Ellington } Citat personaliter &c. He appeared and answers that at the
 " de Burcester. } time of going the procession presented this respondent was not
 "a Tenant of and in the land belonging unto Bignell farme in this cause presented but had
 "left the same for above six weeks before, and it was not on his part as he beleevth to
 "entertayne those w^{ch} did goe the sd procession for this respondent never heard in all his
 "time of living in the sd parish of Burcestre that there was any such custome as is presented,
 "and hee further answereth that the land was then in the landlords holding, namely Mr.
 "Wm. Woodward, of Stratton Ardley. Wherefore the lord dismissed him.

Half a century later, in 1695, Dr. Kennett says "the ancient name of Bigenhull remains
 "in Bignell Farm, a single house in the lordship of Burcester King's End, which by the
 "ruins about it (part whereof are an old ruined church or chappel) seems to have been (as
 "tradition speaks it) the seat of the Lord of the Manor. T'is now a Farm-house belonging
 "to the daughters and coheirs of Mr. Samuel Lee,¹ and hath been for some time in the
 "occupation of John Willson and his son.

After passing through several other hands the house and land adjoining were purchased towards the end of the XVIIIth century by John Coker, Esq., who then owned much of the land which had formed the original manor of Bigenhull. Mr. Coker subsequently sold these to Mr. Forster, who had been for some time the tenant in occupation.

Mr. Forster's farming operations attracted the attention of Mr. A. Young, the secretary to the Board of Agriculture, and are constantly commended in his report of 1809.² After Mr. Forster's death the farm house was occupied by the Rev. Griffith Lloyd, the non-resident Rector of Newton Purcell.

A descendant of Mr. Forster's sold this estate on Dec. 2nd, 1842, to Mr. Hirons, of Milton, near Banbury, who, in July 1864 sold it to its present possessors, Miss Drake, and Miss Agnes Drake, daughters of the late Thomas Tyrwhitt Drake, Esq., of Shardeloes, near Amersham, in Bucks. The only remains of the past now visible are the old fish preserves, and a ring found in the recent alterations, which is in the possession of Miss Drake. The

¹ Mr. Lee made a large collection of the Roman coins and pottery, found in his time in Alchester field, which is mentioned by Dr. Kennett.

² See A. Young's Report, p. 6, on the soil of Bignell farm ; p. 244 on the draining ; p. 275 on the breed of cattle ; p.p. 198, 114 on the crops ; p. 320 on the price of labour.

ruins of the old Chapel and Vestry, which had stood up to this time, were now destroyed, the free-stone being refaced and built into various parts of the gardener's house, which is the farm house of latter times newly fronted. The present house ¹ stands on a new site, at some distance from the old one.

The few houses of this hamlet originally formed a little cluster on the E side of the old Roman road (now the road to Oxford) separated by a clear open space from the village of Burncester. A broad length of grass led from the latter, and was called "The Broadway leading to Bigenhulle." Another road led to the hamlet from the Grange Gate of the Priory. The Broadway became the village green, and the site of the fair and market. Houses were gradually extended in this direction opposite to the Nun's place, but in 1730 several of the old houses were destroyed by fire. In 1794 the open field was enclosed.² Mr. Arthur Young in his survey, taken 12 years later, gives some particulars of the expense of this enclosure, and mentions as a consequence of it that "the rent at Bicester was trebled," the land then letting from 20s. to 25s. per acre. He says also that before it the course of crops upon this land had been, (1) Fallow, (2) Wheat, (3) Beans, (4) Barley; that after it this course was continued on the strong land for some years, but that on the lighter soils it was varied to (1) Turnips, (2) Barley, (3) Clover, (4) Wheat, (5) Oats. By this enclosure the old features of the hamlet were entirely obliterated. That part of the Roman-road, which led from it to Crockwell, was broken up and enclosed, a footway only being left; the original street of the village of Bicester was stopped,³ and a part of it enclosed; the N side of the Green was also taken into Mr. Coker's grounds. For the accommodation of persons deprived of their dwellings on the Green, the last row of cottages on the right hand side of the Oxford-road was then built. Other houses have in more recent times been erected in the opposite direction, and thus King's-end now appears only as a part of the town, from which it was formerly quite distinct.

The weekly market established in 1377 fell into abeyance after the opening of the market in Bury-end in 1430, but the fair then established still continues. This became sadly diverted from its original purpose, and such scenes of disorder and even rioting, took place at it in the last century, that the regular appointment of 3 or 4 special constables in the town, and of watchmen in the surrounding villages, yearly to keep the peace during its continuance became necessary. Even the sacred precincts of the Church and Churchyard were but little respected, visitors to the fair being allowed to run about the roofs of the building, and ascend the tower, while the bells were rung at intervals. It was not until 1806⁴ that the

¹ Particulars of the building of this house are given in the architect's published work, "Wilkinson's Country Houses."

² The Act of Enclosure states that King's-end Field contained about 1,200 acres; that J. Coker, Esq., lord of the manor, was seized of a considerable part of the above lands, together with a portion of the tithes; that Sir Gregory P. Turner, as Rector impropriate of Bicester, was seized of certain glebe lands, and entitled to the remaining portion of the tithes; that Joseph Eyre in right of his vicarage, was seized of some glebe lands and entitled to all the small tithes; and that Dame Elizabeth Dashwood, widow of the late Sir James Dashwood was seized of the remainder

of the said lands.

³ The stoppage of these two old ways met with public approval at the time, because in the days of much travelling by road, it forced all travellers to pass through the town, instead of by a short cut avoiding it, a notice on the sign-post at Weston assuring them that "the shortest way to Buckingham, Northampton, &c., was "through Bicester."

⁴ Mr. Dunkin mentions that the number of persons attending this fair at the beginning of the present century was far less than it had been.

appointment of special constables was discontinued, and not until 1830 that the desecration mentioned was stopped.¹ Large quantities of leather were in latter times sold at this fair, when the shoemakers of the town and neighbourhood were accustomed to lay in their stock for the year. Hence arose the custom, still prevailing, for them and other tradesmen of the town to settle their accounts at this fair, and to exercise hospitality to their customers.

The old connection with the manor of Kirtlington² is still maintained in theory. "It is customary," says Mr. Dunkin in 1819, "for the householders of King's-end township to attend the Court Leet of Kirtlington manor, when a jury is chosen from them, if a sufficient number are present, who are privileged to sit in a separate room. The fine of a mark is still payable yearly at the same court, of which 1s. 8d. is levied on the lord of the manor of King's-end, the same on the owner of the Bignel farm, and 4d. on each cottager." The Court is now unattended, and the payments have lapsed, the latter from the trouble of collecting them.

The distinction of King's-end from Market-end for all civil purposes has been always maintained, and it has been an advantage to residents within the former to escape the proportion of local rates and taxes, which has been levied on the dwellers within the latter. In the days of church rates, King's-end contributed one fifth of every rate, which was below the assessment liability, but in 1863 this inequality was abolished on the occasion of the loan obtained from the Public Loan Commissioners for the restoration of the parish church. It still retains its own distinct poor rate, but on Feb. 4th, 1875, it was ordered by the Local Government Board, Whitehall, that from and after Sept. 29th next following, the date of the Act of Parliament confirming this order, the district of Bicester King's-end should be dissolved, and merged for local government purposes in the district of Market-end.

MANOR OF THE NUNS, OR NUN'S PLACE.

A part of the manor of Bigenhulle, adjacent to Burncestre, consisting of about 200 acres, was given (probably by James le Bret, the first known lord) to the Convent of Nuns at Merkyate or Mergate, now Market-street, sometimes called "The Church of the Holy Trinity in the Wood," and also "Market Cell," in Bedfordshire. This nunnery was founded in 1145, and the estate at Bigenhulle was among its early possessions, for a century later an exchange of some of this land was effected with the Priory of Burncestre.³

"To all the faithful of Christ, who shall see these letters, Joanna, Prioress of the Holy Trinity of the Wood, and of the Convent of the same place, greeting in the Lord. Know ye that we have given, and granted, and by our present charter confirmed, to Hervey, Prior of Berncester and the Canons of the same place, two selions in Hodesham, which lie next the stream outside the Court of the said Canons, for the said Canons to have and to hold for ever, in exchange of one acre of land in Burncestre nearer to our land in Nyhenaker, and half an acre of meadow nearer to our meadow, which is called Gileberdsham, and in testimony thereof we have respectively affixed our seals to this writing."

¹ "Allowed Wm. Balls (sexton), instead of letting persons go on the leads, and of ringing on Fair days £2 14s. od.;" but this compensation was discontinued in the next year. (Churchwarden's Accounts.)

² It is strange that Dr. Kennett should have known nothing of the connection of this hamlet with Kirtlington. See Par. Ant. Ano. MCCCCLXXVII.

³ See note on the third Prior in the list of Priors, which follows.

Made after the manner of a Chirograph. These witnesses the Lord Hamund of St. Faith, Knights, Philip de Wappele, Walhamoth a poor man, Gilbert of St. Faith, and many others.¹

A house of residence for the reeve or bailiff was built upon this estate, and was known first as "The Court of the Lady Prioress," and in later times as "The Nonnes Place." This house was built after the usual type of the manor houses of that age, consisting of a hall upon the ground floor, in which the Lady Prioress, or the Steward, held the Courts Baron, and of one or two chambers above it, and having a croft, or inclosed yard, with a large barn and other outbuildings surrounding it.

In 1279 this estate is said to have consisted of one carucate held in demesne, and of 1½ carucate in the occupation of 11 tenants. In 1291 at Pope Nicholas's taxation its value is given,

"The Prioress of M'keate has in Burncestre in lands rents, meadows and a court.. £ij xvjs. xd.

A century and more later, in the reign of Edward IVth, this estate continued to be assessed at the same sum, when the tenths were rated at vs. viijd.

In 1531 a lease of it for 21 years was granted to "John Gryffyth, gentylman s'nt to "the Lord Cardynall, yelding and paying ten marks good and lawful money of Ingland at "too tymes of the yer";² and the same sum is given at the valuation of the monasteries in 1535 among the temporalities of the Priory of Merkyate:

"County Oxon, Burcestre,"

"There is worth yearly in the rent of a manor there, by an indenture of the lord John "Gryffith exhibited... .. £vj xiijs. iiijd."

Soon after the dissolution of the monasteries, in 1543, the reversion of the fee of this estate (together with another in Ambrosden) was granted to John Denton, Esq., then resident at Blackthorne,³ on the payment of £57 12s. od., into the King's Exchequer. Mr. Denton bequeathed it with his other property to his son, Edward Denton, Esqr., who, in 1582, sold it⁴ to John Coker, Esqr., then resident at Pollicot, in Oxon.

After the termination of the lease to John Griffith, the estate was in the occupation of Justinian Champney, who held it in 1575.⁵

¹ "Transcript Registr. Archid. Oxon M.S. penes Anton. "Wood." (See Dugdale Mon. vol. iii, p. 368.

² The full text of this lease, from MSS in the possession of John Coker, Esqr., is given in Dunkin's History of Bicester, Appendix No. VI.

³ "Rex XXVto die Octobris concessit Johanni Denton "reversionem manerii in Bursestre vocat. 'le Nonnes Place' in "Bysseter Kyngende, in com. Bed., &c." (Orig. 34 Hen VIII., vo. 40.)—See Dugdale ibid.

⁴ There was some dispute connected with the sale of it. "Proceedings in Chancery in reign of Q. Elizabeth."

B. 6. 32.

vol: 1, p. 143. PLAINTIFF.	DEFENDANT.	OBJECT OF SUIT	PREMISES.
John Butler.	Edward Denton Esq.	Contract for purchase.	The manor of Burcester. called 'The Nun's Place,' with the Manor House thereto belonging in Burcester.

⁵ "De Justiniano Champney et uxore ocasionatis ad ostenden-
"dum quo titulo tenent Manerium de Burcester vocatum Nonnes
"Place in Com. Oxonie." (Paschoe Records 17 Eliz. Rot. 64.)

Mr. Coker turned his newly purchased property into a residence for himself, changing its name into "Burcester Hall,"¹ and removing hither from Pollicot.² A view of this house as it appeared a century later has been preserved by Dr. Kennett, and is shown in the annexed engraving.³ This house was entirely pulled down, and the present one built on its site at the end of the last century, soon after Mr. John Coker succeeded to the estate in 1767.

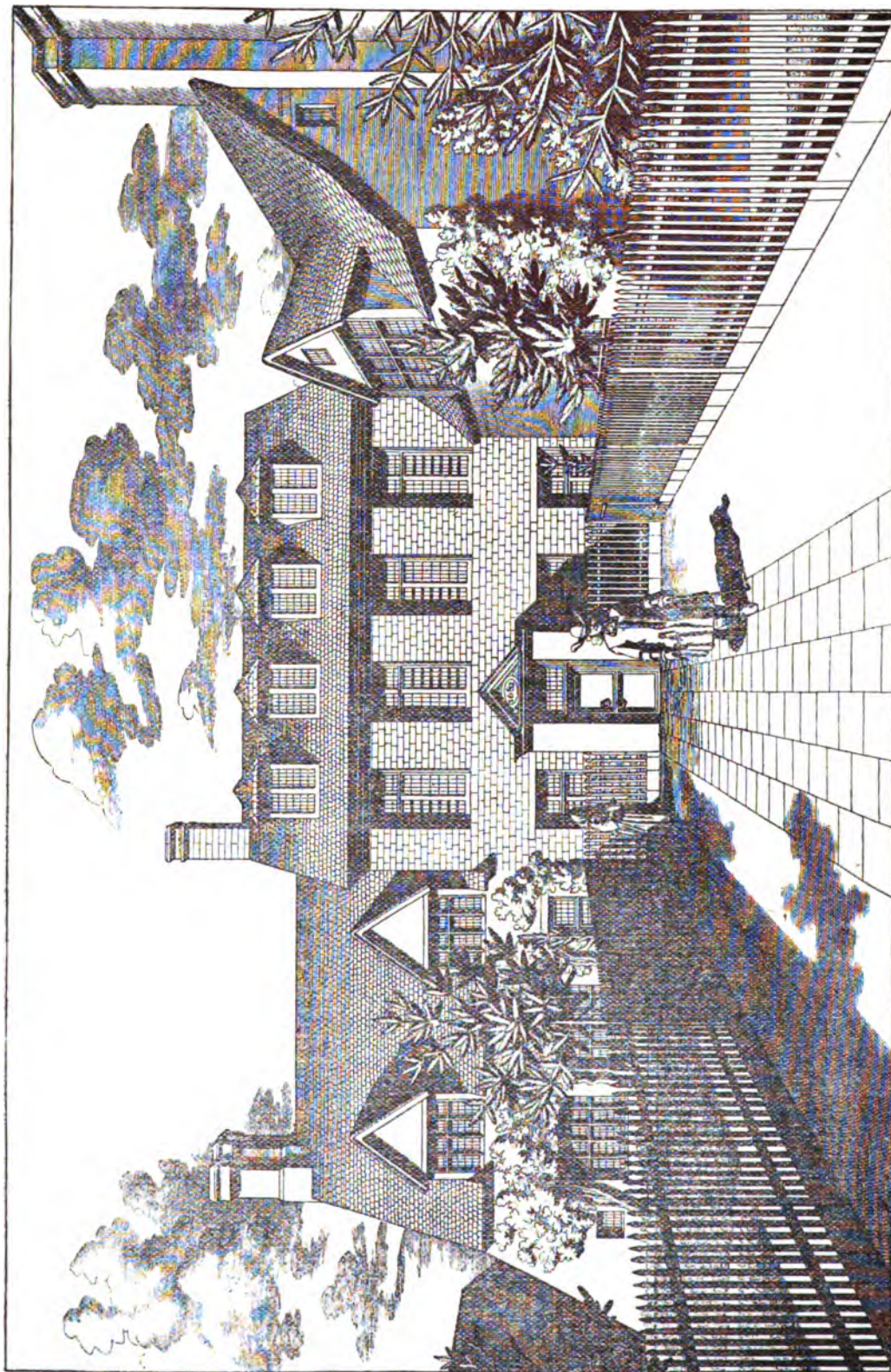
¹ "De Cadwallader Coker occasionato ad ostendendum quo titulo tenet manerium de 'Burcester Hall' in Com. Oxon." —(Public Records, Michaelis 11. Jac. 1. Rol 295.)

² He kept up, it seems, the old family connection with Wales. A brass in Bicester Church records—Here lyeth the body of John Lewes, born in Lyn in the county of Carnarvon, Gent., who for

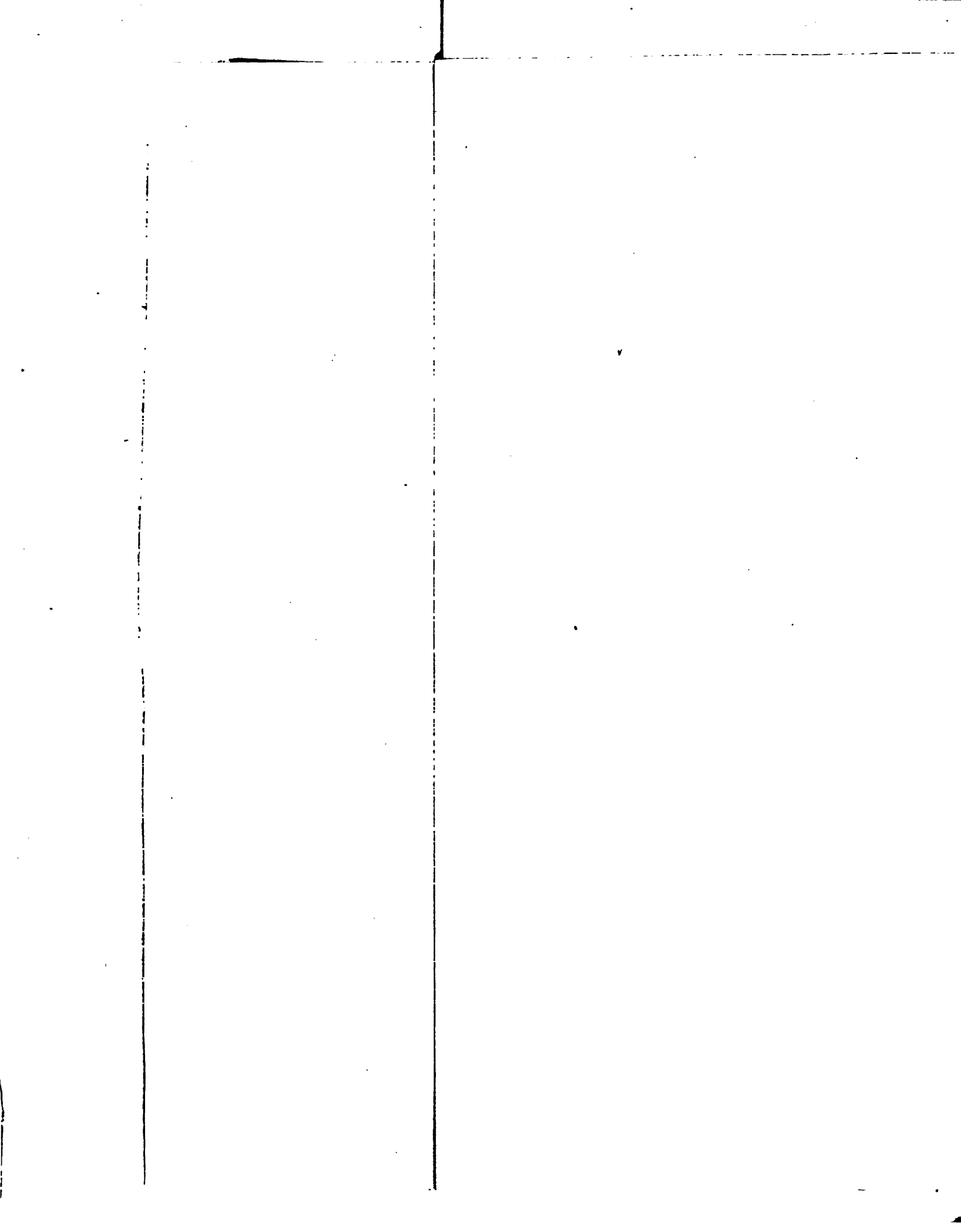
the love he bare to the said John Coker desired by his will to be buried nere him, he dyed in Oxford on the 21st day of September, 1612.

³ "To his worthy friend Mr. John Coker this prospect of his commodious seat is humbly dedicated by W.K."





BURCESTER HALL.



THE PARISH CHURCH.

Bede, writing about A.D. 730, mentions three kinds of religious edifices, viz. Oratories, Baptisteries, and Churches. The characteristic of an Oratory was a cross; of a Baptistry a font; whilst a church comprised cross, font, and altar. That the first was erected in Burncestre is evident from the name given to the spring or well near which it stood, Croc-well.¹ "For the custom of the Saxon race is," says a writer in the VIIth century, "that in certain manors belonging to nobles and rich men there is not erected a church, but the blessed sign of the holy Cross dedicated to GOD, is raised on high with much honour, and this they are accustomed to use for the necessary requirements of daily prayer."² These dedication crosses were named by the first English Christians by a word which, when it came to be written, took the various forms of cyric, cric, croc, cruc, kirk, chirk, kirche, creech, crich, and church.

From Bede's statement it further appears that the sacrament of Baptism was not administered in remote country places, but only in central situations, and at stated intervals. It is therefore probable that the Croc-well³ in Burncestre long served as the place of Baptism at Easter and Whitsuntide, not only for the inhabitants of this village, but also of the surrounding neighbourhood.

In a climate like ours shelter was soon required as well as for the officiating priest as for the daily worshipper, and so covered buildings were soon erected over, or near the original cross, called Cross-Houses, constructed of wattles or timber, and roofed with reeds or shingles, having in all cases a circular Eastern extremity.

As this village grew in population, and extended itself Southwards, a larger and more Church-like building was erected of stone in a central position, on a knoll of elevated ground where the present church stands. This Saxon Church was dedicated to a Saxon Saint, S. Eadburg, now written S. Edburg.⁴

¹ At Frampton, in Dorset, on the Ikeneld way there strikes off a branch road to the N-E passing a farm called Crockway=Cross-way, and Crockstone=Cross-stone. On entering the parish of Wraxall this road takes the name of Cromlech-Crock-lane. Here a cromlech formerly stood, of which the capstone was almost within living memory in existence. In this stone, which was about 5 ft. long and 3 ft. wide, was a hollow place of about 1 foot in diameter. To this the common people used to point, observing that this was the crock, meaning by this the socket or mortice of a cross, which had long before disappeared.—(See Article on Ancient Crosses and Cross Houses in the transactions of the Exeter Diocesan Architectural Society, pt. II, vol. IV, 2nd series 1872.)

² This passage occurs in the *Hodæporicus* or Itinerary of S. Willibald, Bishop of Eichstadt. It is referred to by Godfrey Henschen in his search for materials to illustrate the life of Richard, reputed king of Wessex in or about 700 A.D.

³ The original well has been built over, and is covered by a house. "When it was deemed advisable to build over the spring part of its waters were conveyed into a well on the waste, and part to a small reservoir called the Horse-Spring, then under the wall but now in the close of John Coker, Esq. The well

"has been since removed, and that which is now found near the spot was made at the expense of the above gentleman about the year 1794."—(Dunkin's History.)

The well and cross at Woodeaton, near Oxford, were also in all probability one of Birinus's preaching stations.

⁴ There is no difficulty about the spelling of this name. Supposing that it is not an abbreviated form of some longer word, such as Ethelburg (which might have become Edelburg, and afterwards been shortened into Edburg) the original orthography would be Eadburg, but this may now be very properly written Edburg, just as Eadward, Eadwine, Eadgar, &c., have come to be spelt Edward, Edwine, Edgar, &c., and some such words are found in the latter, as well as in the former, shapes in the Saxon Chronicle.

Roman influence most probably caused the name to be written Edburga by the XIVth century (*a* being a feminine termination in Latin, but in A. Saxon feminine nouns never end in *a*.) The final letter there is either a consonant, which remains unchanged in the accusative, or *e*, which makes accusative in *an*, or *u* (sometimes *o*) which becomes *e* in the accusative. It may be that from an irregular following of the latter rule we find accusatives Eadburge in Saxon Chronicle A.D. 787, and Eidelburge A.D. 633.

It is a question which of the several reputed English Saints of this name ¹ was the Patron Saint of this Church, but all probability is in favour of the local Saint, the Virgin of Aylesbury.² The Feast of the Dedication was long observed in the month of July³ yearly, but, probably after the dissolution of the Priory, it fell into disuse; and thus this parish, differing from all others in the neighbourhood, holds no yearly "Feast."

After the lapse of two or three centuries, Gilbert Basset the new Norman lord of the manor, determined to replace the Saxon Church by another more in accordance with his own tastes, and the spirit of his times. His plan was to erect a cruciform building of large and bold proportions. The Chancel, Transepts, and Nave were built, but the Central Tower has never been finished. Its walls were raised high enough to carry the adjoining roofs, but the Western Arch was not completed,⁴ and the work in the three arches, which exist, was left very plain and void of ornament, a contrast to all the other work of this period in the surrounding Churches. The nave was extended as far as the present one, as the three pieces of tooth moulding, still in situ, forming the outer string-course of the North wall,⁵ show, the conservative spirit of the architect preserving one of the arches of the former Saxon building. Flat wooden roofs covered the different parts.⁶ The former dedication to St. Edburg was preserved,⁷ and subsequently a figure of the Saint was placed against the second column on the S side of the nave.⁸

In 1182 this Church was assigned to the Priory, but the Monks were so engaged in the erection of their conventual buildings that the long interval of a century and half elapsed before any new work was done in it. In the first half of the XIIIth century the Southern wall of the nave was broken into for the purpose of adding an aisle. The four arches

¹ Seven have been counted (1) of Winchester, (2) of Kent, abbess of a minster in Thanet, in the latter half of the VIIth century, (3) of Peterborough, (4) of Gloucester, the second abbess of St. Peter's Monastery in that city, (5) a daughter of Offa, who married Bertric, king of Wessex in A.D. 787, (6) a daughter of Eadulf, king of the East Angles, said to have been abbess of Repton, (7) of Aylesbury.

² "This town (Aylesbury) was heretofore chiefly famous for "S. Eadith, a native of it, who when she had prevailed with her "father Frewald (a Mercian prince, said to have been lord of this "country) to give her this for her portion, present'y, upon persuasion of some religious persons, left the world and her husband "and taking on her the habit of a nun, grew so celebrated for her "sanctity that in that fruitful age of saints she is reported to have "done several miracles together with her sister Eadburg, from "whom Edburton, a little village among the hills takes its name." —(Camden in Cattieuchlani, Buckinghamshire.)

See Kennett's P.A., Ano. MCLXXXII. He says S. Edburg also gave name to Adderbury, called in Domesday Survey Edburgeberie.

³ See Accounts of Vicarage, July 1340.

⁴ The string course stopping abruptly on the S.W. column shows that a W arch was intended. It probably did the same on the opposite column, but there the stone has been cut away to give place to a monument.

⁵ There is also a piece of Norman string course with tooth moulding on the outside wall of the S. transept in situ. There

are also stones forming part of arches in the wall of the S. aisle.

⁶ "With the conquest of England by Duke William, the "Norman style penetrated there also, and put an end to the old "Saxon architecture. Yet the new architecture of the land "adopted certain elements of the former period into its system "thus giving it a peculiar national colouring. The most essential "of these elements was, undoubtedly, that of the wooden building, "which had enjoyed especial favour among the island people from "an early period, and which henceforth was at least employed in the "flat roofing of the aisles of the basilica. This predilection was so "strong that the main aisles of the churches were always furnished "with flat wooden roofs, and we know of no vaulted central aisle "in the entire English architecture of this period.—Length of "structure was also common to all English buildings."—(History of Art by Dr. Wilhelm Lubke, vol. 1. p. 423.)

⁷ Kennett has imagined that the church was dedicated to St. James, because what he calls "the Wake," but which is really the fair (granted in 1377, to be held at Bigenhull manor), was held on St. James' day, and on the two days before and after it.

In the account already given of St. Edburg's well or spring it should have been stated that this well may still be found a few yards distant from the foot-path running from King's-end to Middleton, being the source of the little stream which flows under the bridge on the Middleton-road near the town. It will be noticed that this well is close to the site of the original village.

⁸ Where the pulpit afterwards was placed. —(Dunkin's Appendix No. VII. Memoranda.)

then built are good Early English work, recessed; the inner arch chamfered, the outer having bold round mouldings, label, and corbel heads; the pillars are clustered, all the capitals having had the stiff-leaved foliage, which now only remains on two, and on part of a third. The door of this S. aisle is very good E.E. work. The font, plain and polygonal, is probably of the same date.

In the next century, the XIVth, the monks continued their pious work by adding a North aisle. The arches of this aisle are of the Decorated style (1275—1375), not moulded but recessed and chamfered, having octagon pillars, with good cap mouldings. The two-light windows and plain door of this aisle are good work. During the same period Decorated windows were substituted for the small Norman ones at the E end, and S side¹ of the chancel, and a Decorated arch of wide space was inserted in the N wall to open into a side chapel. Some windows of the same kind were also inserted in the S aisle.

About this period² a stone cross was erected in the Churchyard directly opposite the chief entrance to the church, the N door, on a spot now vacant.³

Various additions and alterations followed in the XVth century, the chief being the Western Tower, which bears so close a resemblance to that of the neighbouring parish of Islip, that they were both probably the design of the same mind. The Tower, 75 feet high, (the square of the base 20 feet) has a West door and window over it, Perpendicular (1425—1525) plain, but good, deeply recessed; belfry windows of two lights with transoms; parapet battlemented; pinnacles at the angles pannelled and crocketed. The Tower arch inside is singularly graceful. Six bells were hung in the Tower, and a Sanctus bell.⁴

The roof of the nave had been first flat; afterwards pointed; now it was raised to form the present Clerestory. The roofs of the Transepts had been also the same. They were now again laid flat to correspond with the aisles. The Perpendicular windows in the S aisle were at the same time inserted.

The Church thus built up measures

Chancel	39 feet long by 17 feet broad.
Nave,	82 feet „ by 28 feet „
Aisles,	82 feet „ by 14 ft. 9 in. „

The latest addition to the fabric of the Church was the North Porch. This consisted of a vestibule, and a small chamber over it, which was approached from the inside, and was called "The Parvise," or "Paradise."⁵

¹ These were removed at the restoration of the fabric in 1863, when the present windows were inserted.

² "Let a handsome Churchyard Cross be erected in every "Churchyard."—(Institutions of Bp. of Winchester, A.D. 1229.)

³ The shaft of this cross was in the last century cut down to bear a sun-dial, inscribed with the names of the Churchwardens of the time being. The original steps remained until 1863, when all traces of the old cross were thoughtlessly removed.

⁴ These old Sanctus bells are now generally called Ting-Tangs, or the Parson's bell, and are rung about five minutes before the service begins.


⁵ A room in a private house was sometimes called "a paradise,"

and hence the name came to be applied to the porch-room of a church.

This room was injudiciously destroyed in the repairs of 1863. In recent times it had been used as a muniment room, for preserving the books, which had belonged to the Grammar School library, and the four chests, in which the various parish papers were deposited. It was a common stipulation in the leases of estates belonging to the Trustees of the Town Stock that the rent should be paid in "the room over the Church porch."

An indenture stipulating payments within the Church as far back as 1352 is given in Kennett's P.A. s. h. a.

Close to the E wall of the same side of the church there was another chamber of rather earlier date. A staircase led up to it from the outside, the outer doorway (now used as an entrance to the vestry) and the window of the chamber looking eastward, still remaining. This chamber was no doubt the lodging of the Sacristan or Sexton, his deputy or clerk occupying that over the porch.

The Chapel on the N side of the chancel was probably The Lady Chapel. A Piscina (Perpendicular) in the South transept proves that another altar was erected there. On the top of the Tower, near the entrance to the roof, there may now be seen two large stones built into the wall, one of them having 's at its four corners. These were evidently Altar stones once in use within the church. On one of the nave columns near the N door there is a very small niche, which once held a figure.

The wooden screen, separating the Chancel from the nave, remained until the present century. Over it was the loft, containing the Rood or figure of the Saviour on the Cross, to which access was gained by a staircase in the S transept, (this now leads to the roof). A second loft was erected at the E end of the N aisle (the screen beneath it still remains) to hold the figure of St. George, at the time when the veneration paid to him as the Patron Saint of England had been generally established in the XIVth century.¹ A corbel head, sharply cut, remains on the inside wall of the N aisle, which probably supported an arch leading into the adjoining transept.

The usual ornaments of the Church are mentioned in the following bequests.

"1531, July 6th, Thomas Sherman, of Bicester, bequeaths to the altar an ewe and a lamb. "Item I bequeath after the death of Matilda my wife that Robert Dyngley shall deliver "unto the Churchwardens of Burcester one heifore of ij years old to the behoof of our Lady "light."

"Witness Sir Pers. Griffyn, Vicar."

"1543, April 8th, John Moore, of Burcester, bequeaths his body to be buried in the "Parish Church of Burcester underneath St. George's loft, where my wife lyeth. To the "High Altar ij^d. Item to iij standing lights within the said church, to either of them a bushel "of barley. Item to the body of the sayd Church vj^s „ viij^d."

"Witness John Wylkyns, Vicar."

"1544, Oct. 12, John Bodycott, of Burcester, bequeaths his body to be buried in the "Church of Burcester before our Lady of Pitie. To the High Altar viij^d. To the Sepulcher "light a stryke² of wheat, and a stryke of malt. To the Torch light a stryke of wheat and "a stryke of malt. To the bells a stryke of wheat and a stryke of malt."

"Witness John John Wylkins, Vicar."

"1544, Margaret Smyth, of Burcester, bequeaths to the High Altar xx^d. To the rode "light xii^d. Sepulchre light viij^d. To the bells xx^d."

"Witness John Wylkyns, Vicar."

¹ The particular veneration paid to St. George, of Cappadocia, in England, dates from the time of Richard I, who in the wars of Palestine placed himself and his army under the special protection of St. George. In 1222 his feast was ordered to be kept as a

holiday throughout England; and the institution of the Order of the Garter in 1330 seems to have completed his inauguration as our patron Saint.—(Mrs. Jameson's *Legendary Art*.)

² The eighth part of a seam or quarter of corn=bushel

"1545, Oct. 25th, John Westly, of Burcester, bequeathed to the High Altar xij^d
 "Itm he desires to have v masses at his buryal, and as many at the moneths mynde."

"Witness Sir Henry Mathew, Curate."

As soon as stained glass came into general use no Church was considered complete unless every window was filled with it. About 1350 A.D. windows began to be mortuary, containing figures of deceased persons, with their coats of arms and inscriptions. The following in this church were visible in 1660.

"Orate pro aiabus Rob^d Clement et ux ejus, et Thoe Clement et
 "ux ejs" Under it two men and two women kneeling.

"Orate pro aiabus Lamolde et scolastice ux ejs^a et pro aiabus haw (i s i e)
 "et Agnet ux ej^a et filior eor." Under it two men and two women praying.

In another window a man praying, under him "[WW filior Alicie.]

"Orate pro aiabus Johis Wilkyns et pro bono statu. . . . Alicieq matris ejus . . .
 "Wilkyns patris . . . hanc fenestram fieri . . . quorum aniabus propitiatur Deus. Amen."

COATS OF ARMS.

I } The arms of Staveley of Bigenhull (the
 II } same as before described).

• Thes iij be in bord paynted.

(In the North Isle are these coats painted on wainscot wood.)

III. Quarterly 1 and 4. On a chevron between three lozenges three bucks faces' cabossed (Staveley). 2 and 3. Paly of six Arg. and Az. (Strelley) impaling No. II.

IV. Gu. two bars Or (Harcourt), impaling, Sa. three eagles displayed Arg.

V. Gu. two bars Or (Harcourt) impaling. Quarterly 1 Az. a sun in its glory Or (St. Clere) 2 and 3. Barry of six Or and Gu. 4 Arg. a lion rampant Sa.

(These quarterings following are on an Escoccheon y^t hung on the wall an. 1574 and several years after. Wood.)

VI. Quarterly 1 and 4. Arg. on a bend Gu. three martlets Or in chief a crescent for a difference. 2 and 3 Gu. two bars Arg. in chief three bucks' heads, cabossed Or

Over it written a beriall shocken.

In Glas

VII. Arg. a fess. dancetteé gobony Gu. and Sa. between three mullets Sa (Moore), impaling Erm. two bars Gu. (Hussey.)

On a tounge.

VIII. Quarterly 1 and 4. Moore as above 2 and 3 . . . a fess between three annulets Gu. Over it written "Roger Moore, Esq^e. somtyme Sargant of the bakehouse and after "Sarvent of ye Catery to K. Henry the viij and also in the tyme of K. Edward "the VIth, ob. XXth Sept. MDLI.

In glase.

IX. Quarterly 1 Arg. on a bend Sa. three martlets Or. 2 Arg. on a fess Gu. three stag's heads coupéd of the field. 3. Paly of six Arg. and Sa. on a chevron Gu. a cross

¹ Extracted from "Monumental inscriptions in the Counties of XLIX. G. Biciter al^s Burcester, May 25th, 1660. Bucks, Berks and Oxon, 1660." Mus. Brit. Bibl. Harl 4170 Plut.

crosslet Or. 4. Per chevron Sa. and Gu. three griffins' heads erased Arg. impaling, Barry of six Erm. and Gu. on the second bar a crescent Or (Hussey.)

In glase.

X. Barry nebulee of six Or and Gu.

On a stone.

XI. Barry of six Erm. and Gu. on the second bar a crescent Or (Hussey.)

Over it written "John Hussey, descended of the kyndred and house of Dorsetsher."

XII. Hussey, impaling, Arg. a fess. Sa.

XIII. Hussey, impaling, Arg. three greyhounds couchant palewise Az. within a bordure Sa. bezantée.

XIV. Hussey, impaling, three fleurs-de-lys (untinctured).

XV. Barry nebulee of six Arg. and Sa.

XVI. Erm. a fess checky Or and Az. (Arden.)

XVII. Az on a chevron Arg between three eagles' heads erased of the second, an ogress between four cross crosslets Sa. (Nash.)

Over it written "Nash of old Woodstock."

In an old shochen in paper.

XVIII. Quarterly 1 and 4. Az. a fess. Arg. between three garbs Or. (Nowers) 2 and 3 Arg. on an escutcheon Sa. within an orle of cinquefoils Gu. a crescent (Darcy) impaling, Quarterly 1 and 4. Gu. three conies Arg. (Coningsby) 2 and 3 Arg. a lion rampant Gu. iwithin a bordure enrailed Sa.

Burials within the Church began very early, for the following indulgence was granted by the Bishop of Lincoln, John d'Aldreby, in 1302,

"On the 2nd of the nones of May, in the 2nd year of his episcopate at Buckeden, the Bishop "granted xx days' Indulgence to all persons who pray for the souls of the late Elye de "Burncestre, and Agnes, his wife, whose bodies lie buried in the Parish Church of Burncestre, &c." ¹

Some sculpture work, which had belonged to the Priory Church, was, after its destruction in 1536, saved from the general wreck, and placed in the Parish Church. This consisted of (1) a small panel, containing a figure, supposed to be that of the Patron Saint, St. Edburg, now visible over the door of the S. aisle on the outside wall; (2) two oblong recessed panels of good decorated work, each containing three small figures of knights in armour, under foliated arches, which had evidently formed the sides of an altar tomb, now placed over the arches of the S. aisle; (3) a female figure on a corbel, with a canopy over the head, a curious piece of workmanship, also placed on the S. wall of the nave; and (4) a very elegant decorated niche, now placed against one of the columns of the S. aisle.

The old furniture having been removed at the Reformation, some interval elapsed before the arrangements of the Church were adapted to the use of our present liturgy.

Before the end of the XVIth century a pulpit² of wood was erected in the nave, against the second column on the S side, and soon afterwards wooden seats, at first small movable

¹ Lincoln Registers.

² "The Churchwardens at the common charge of the parish-
"ioners in every parish shall provide a comely and honest pulpit

"to be set in a convenient place within the church, and to be
"there seemly kept for the preaching of God's worde."

(Injunctions given by the Queen's Majesty 1559.)

stools, and then fixed benches, with backs and ends, some of which were remaining as late as 1862, were placed over the whole area. About the same time the priest's reading pew was erected, and next to it the bride's pew, the churcing pew, and the churchwardens' pew.¹ A large volume² of "Fox's Martyrology" was chained to a desk in the church.

"In the first year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord, King James the 2nd, 1685. The "Honoured Sir Wm. Glynne, of Ambrosden, in the County of Oxford, Bart., Patron of this "Church, gave, for the use of such as are of the Communion of the Church of England, 2 large "Flaggons of massy silver, 1 Silver Salver, 1 Gilt Chalice and Cover, a large Carpet of purple "velvet, with gold and silk fringe, for the Communion table, a purple velvet Cushion with gold "and silk tassels; a purple velvet Cloth, with gold and silk fringe, for the ornament of the "pulpit."³

About the same time the Sacarium was made to wear the appearance it presented until quite recently.

"The East end of the Church is paved with black and white marble, lozengy, wainscotted, "and over the Communion Table is painted I H S, within a splendid glory of red and "yellow."⁴

Several banners and hatchments belonging to the Glynne family were hung on the N. wall of the Chancel.⁵

A view of the Church and Vicarage House, engraved in 1695 by M. Burghers, is preserved in Kennett's Par. Antiqs.

In the last century a large brass chandelier was hung in the centre of the nave which continued in use until the introduction of gas, and in its place until the restoration in 1862. A marble monument in the nave commemorated the donor,

"To the memory of Mr. Robert Jemmett, of this parish (a true son of the Church of England), "who died the 29 day Octr. 1736, aged 63 years."

"And also Elizabeth, his disconsolate wife, who departed this life the 2nd day of Octobr. 1746, "aged 80 years. Who to the sacred memory of her loving husband erected this monument."

"He was sole giver of the Branch in this Church."

Unlawful appropriations, and disfigurements of the fabric, succeeded each other through two centuries. The first of these was the separation of the side Chapel for the Vicar's Grammar

¹ "1612. May 27th ye Churchwardens meeting together for "seeking for workmen to make a fitt seate in a convenient place "for brydgrumes, bryds, and syke wives to sit in." (Parish Book "of Chester le Street, Durham.)

The priest's reading pew was probably the origin of all pews.

² Mr. Dunkin mentions in 1816 this "ponderous volume" as resting on the original desk, to which it had been chained, and which was then affixed to the wall at the W. end of the N. aisle. He adds "the covers are now torn off, though they still remain

"chained together."

³ A Tablet containing this inscription was placed on the screen between the Nave and Chancel, but in recent times it was removed to the S. side of the Nave.

⁴ "Collections for Oxfordshire, Monumental Inscriptions, &c., "printed by Sir T. Philipps, Evesham, 1825," in the Bodleian Library.

⁵ The irons supporting these remained until the recent restoration.

School, and the next was the erection of a large Western Gallery in 1693.¹ Two more galleries followed in the N. aisle, each protruding beyond the nave columns, and each being claimed for the sole and exclusive use of the persons who erected them. At the beginning of the present century a fourth gallery was erected by a single family in like manner across the E. end of the S. transept, which was approached by some wooden steps from the outside, through a doorway inserted in the wall;² and about the same time, in 1810, a fifth gallery was thrown across the Chancel arch, the occupants of which could face round to either the Nave or Chancel services. A sixth gallery was next erected in the S. aisle, behind the pulpit. Nothing could have been seen in any Church more unsightly and unbecoming than this chaos of uplifted boxes;³ and the principle, which their erection had introduced, of lock and key soon spread to the high-backed pews or pens, which had by this time taken the place of most of the open benches, so that a large number of sittings gradually came to be claimed as private property, and were, even within living memory, sold by one supposed owner to another.

The present Clock was placed in the Tower about the middle of the last century, and the first organ (to take the place of the "bassoon"⁴) was purchased of Sir G. Turner, for £50, from Ambrosden House, about the year 1770, and was erected in the W. gallery.

An entry in the Visitation books of Dr. J. Potter, Archdeacon of Oxford, dated Sept. 28, 1757, is indicative of the age of whitewashing and patching.

"Mr Princeps, Vicar.

"Ch. Wardens { Tho. Eagles } A little under Pinning to be mended at the S.E.
 { Antho. Davy } corner of the Chancel. The Church porch to be white-
 "washed, and the steps into the Church at the N.W. door to be repair'd. The pavement of
 "the whole North Isle, and at the S.E. corner Miss Bosce's burying place to be new laid, Plain
 "and even; Bottoms of some of the seats to be repaired. A new cover to Font, new Chest
 "3 locks and key; Church and Chancel to be white washed, 10 Commans' and chosen new
 "texts wrote; keep Ch. yard clean, remove Rubbish from Ch. yard wall."

A few years later a violent storm did much damage to the fabric.

"Saturday, August the 3rd, 1765. Hear was a very dredfull Thunder and Litening, which
 "took the Ball of from the wether Cock, and shattered the Pinacell of the same; and took
 "some of the Ruff of the Tower with the Lead, and tore the arch of the bell window down,
 "and split the frame, that the great bell hangs to, and the stock of the great Bell, and then
 "descended down to the second loft, and tore the chimes all to peces, and then to the Bellfree,
 "and took every pane of glass out of the window, and Patishon from the arch, and drove it

¹ The faculty for appropriating this gallery to the sole use of the contributors to its erection under the care of two supervisors, yearly elected, granted on May 20, 1700, is preserved among the parish records, and is an amusing specimen of that old exclusiveness, which drove so many out of our Churches.

² Mr. Dunkin says that many stones of an older building were

found built into this wall, when it was disturbed.

³ The high-backed pews of this period were ridiculed by the *Times* newspaper as "lidless boxes."

⁴ "1744. Pd for mending the bassoon £ s. d.
 16 3
 (Churchwardens' Accounts.)

"down in the middle of the Church, and then came down into the Church, and broke a pavement under the gallery, and then ascended, and shattered most of the lower windows in the Church."¹

The mullions and tracery of the windows in the S. aisle, being thus injured, were then removed, this being thought the easiest way of repairing the damage done.

"The windows have all suffered severely, having the pointed arches and tracery cut away, and circular heads of one light, with modern glazing; the tower has escaped the modernizing hand, and has a venerable appearance."²

The first attempt at improvement was made in 1842, by a rearrangement of sittings,³ but in the next year another, and the last, disfigurement was introduced. In order to give an undue prominence to the ordinance of preaching, the pulpit was removed from its original position on the S. side of the nave, and placed at an higher elevation than before, with the prayer desk and clerk's desk below it (an arrangement jocosely termed a "three-decker"), in the centre of the E. end of the nave, close to the Chancel arch, where for 20 years it remained.

Meanwhile, a great development, æsthetic as well as doctrinal, was being carried on through the whole English Church. The authors of the Oxford movement were admirers of the beautiful, wherever found, and their good taste, to say nothing of their higher feelings, was shocked by the ugly and disfiguring additions, which in recent times had been made to our noble Cathedrals and venerable Parish Churches.⁴ To repair, therefore, and to restore all that was worthy in the old became a chief aim with many, and though opposition broke out here and there, their efforts slowly prevailed, so that in every part of the country old Churches were restored, and new ones built, in a way which had not been seen since the days following the Norman Conquest. Several of the Churches of this neighbourhood had been taken in hand, when, in 1862, the thorough restoration of this Church was begun, and in the next year completed, through the zealous exertions of the Vicar (J. W. Watts), and according to the plans of C. Beazley, Esq., architect, at a cost of £3,214,⁵ whereby it assumed its present comely appearance.

Seven years later the bells in the Tower were taken down and re-tuned, when two new ones were added to complete the peal,⁶ which sounded out their first chimes in the Christmas week of 1870. The present state of the bells is as follows:—⁷

¹ Written on the cover of one of the Church Registers.

² Collections for Oxon, in Bodleian Library.

³ "We, the undersigned, having examined the above accounts find them perfectly satisfactory and correct, more so, in consequence of the extensive improvements made in the body of the Church, viz., in lowering and regulating all the pews, increasing sitting for 104 persons, besides free seats for 34 poor persons, making a total increase of above 130 seats," &c., &c.

(Entry in Churchwarden's Book.)

⁴ History of Church of England from 1660, by W. Nassau Molesworth, 1802, p. 374.

⁵ Of this sum £900 was obtained from the Public Works Loan Commissioners; £200 from the Diocesan Church Building Society; £150 from the London Church Building Society, and the rest from voluntary contributions.

⁶ "John Coker, Esq., has lately offered to be at half the expense of purchasing 2 additional bells to the tower, but the object has not been accomplished for want of equal liberality in others."—Dunkin's History in 1816.

⁷ Taken on Nov. 3, 1882, and kindly communicated by Mr. G. J. Dew, of Lower Heyford,

No.	Inscriptions on Bells.	Diameter in Inches.	Estimated Weight.
1	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. On waist of bell :— JOHN WILLIAM WATTS, M.A., VICAR. THOMAS GARDNER, } CHURCHWARDENS: JOHN SHILLINGFORD, } A.D. 1870.	27	4½ Owts.
2	∞∞∞ GABRIEL MAYNARD & RICHARD JESOP CH WARDENS..... On waist of bell :— CHAPMAN & MEARS OF LONDON FECHEUNT 1782 Chipped at rim in tuning.	27½	4½
3	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON On waist of bell :— THOMAS GARDNER, } CHURCHWARDENS. JOHN SHILLINGFORD, } A.D. 1870.	29	5
4	∞∞∞ T. MEARS, OF LONDON, FECIT 1821	30½	5½
5	∞∞ MESSRS. GEORGE FOSTER & RICHARD JESSOP CH. WAR- DENS ∞∞∞ PACK & CHAPMAN OF LONDON, FECIT 1775	33	6½
6	∞∞∞ SEWELL STEVENS & THOS. LAMBURN CH. WAR- DENS 1760 LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT On waist :— INFANT'S BELL.	34½	7½
7	* ∞ * ∞ On waist of bell :—RICHARD CHANDLER ¹ MADE ME 1715 Letters of inscription very rough, and altogether a roughly cast bell. Between the canons are <i>seven</i> chisel marks	38½	10
8	MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON On waist of bell :— JOHN WILLIAM WATTS, M.A., VICAR. THOMAS GARDNER, } CHURCHWARDENS. JOHN SHILLINGFORD, } A.D. 1870.	43	14½

¹
year.
parish
ness, wh
² Mr. L.

¹ Bell-founder at Drayton Parslow, Bucks.

THE CHURCHYARD.

The ground around the Church was long used for the burial of the dead, not only from Burcester and Bigenhulle, but also from the adjoining villages of Stratton and Langeton. It was not until the year 1425 that the inhabitants of the former village, and not until 1430 that those of the latter, obtained permission to bury their dead within the precincts of their own Churchyards. The ground originally assigned was curtailed, first at the beginning of the XIIIth century, when the whole West side, now forming the site of the Vicarage House and its premises, was taken from it, and again in 1837, when a space of 4ft. along its whole North side was thrown into the public street. An enlargement in later times became an absolute necessity, and in 1859 the present public Cemetery (the ground being given by Sir E. Turner) was provided.

THE PARISH CLERGY.

It is often asserted, that the Church of England dates its origin from the Reformation in the XVIth century, as if the ancient branch of the Catholic Church in this country had been then legislatively abolished, and a new Church substituted for it. But no error could be further from the truth. The Reformation, without doubt, altered very considerably the condition and character of the Anglican Church. It imposed new regulations, new duties, new liberties both on clergy and laity, and it modified considerably their professions of faith, but these changes did not affect her existence.¹ A house repaired and cleansed is not a new house, but the old one under a new condition.² The men who filled the offices of the Church before the Reformation retained them through it, and after it. They yielded, no doubt, generally a reluctant obedience to the altered conditions, under which henceforth they were to exercise their ministry, imposed on them by a very strong pressure from the State, but the forms of ecclesiastical independence were scrupulously observed, and care was taken to obtain for them the formal sanction of the Convocation of the province of Canterbury, and at least the tacit acquiescence of the Convocation of York. Nothing, therefore, is more certain than the fact that the Post-Reformation Church was no new Church, but a modified continuation of the Pre-Reformation Church.

The first clergy of the Church of Burncester, whose names are known, were

“William the Elder” and “William his Capellane,”

both living in 1106, in which year they thus subscribed their names as witnesses to a deed confirming the grant of the Hermitage of St. Cross at Muswell to the Church of Missenden.

¹ History of the Church of England from 1660, by W. Molesworth, 1882.

² “Theirs (the Reformers) was the work of renovating an “ancient cathedral, majestic even in decay, presenting the traces “of noble architecture, though in ruins on this side, and choked “with rubbish on that. They did not attempt to batter down “the walls, and plow up the foundations of the venerable edifice, “and then to erect on the site a wholly modern structure. They “were better taught and better directed. They removed with “the greatest carefulness and diligence the coating from the “beautiful pillars, which men had daubed with ‘untempered “‘mortar’; and they swept away buttresses, which did but dis- “figure, without sustaining, the building; and above all they

“opened the windows which ignorance or superstition had “blocked up; and then the rich light of heaven came streaming “down the aisles, and men flocked to its courts to worship the “one God through the one Mediator.” “You sometimes hear or “read of the Fathers of the English Church, the names being “given to the Reformers. But the name is most falsely applied. “The Fathers of the English Church are the Apostles, and those “Apostolic men who lived in the early days of Christianity, and “handed down to us what was held as truth, when there were the “best means for ascertaining and defining it. We acknowledge “no modern Fathers; it were to acknowledge a modern birth.”

(H. Melvill's Sermon, “Protestantism and Popery.”)

When this Church was given to the Priory the brethren undertook its services. The only one of these, whose name has come down to us, is Robert de Witefield, living in 1182.

But after the ordination of the Vicarage, when the clergy were obliged to reside in the Vicarage House, the list of their names is unbroken.

Robert de Sparkeford, instituted 1226.¹

"Rob. de Sparkeford, Capelan. ad perpet. Vicar. Eccl. de Berencestr' p. nos auct^e. concilii "ordinatam ad pres. Prior & Conv. de Berencestr."—(Reg. of H. de Willis, an^o 17.)

John de Culeham, Capellane, instituted 1232.

Walter de Charlebury, Capellane, instituted, 1244.

R. de Burton, Capellane, instituted 1245.

Robert de Eylesbury,

William de Burncestre, Capellane, instituted Non. March, 1273.

Hugh atte Ford, Capellane, living in 1292.

William de Kynton, Ob. 1302.

Andrew de Cottesford, Rector of Newton, instituted 2 Non. March, 1302.

Geoffrey de Chesterton

Robert Elyot, living in 1325.

John de Atterhulle al^a — de Curtlyngton, instituted 14 Kal. April, 1337.

Walter Hardy, living in 1346.

Nicholas Brode de Buckingham, Priest, instituted 16 Kal. Dec., 1348.

John Osmond de Chippenham, Priest, instituted 16 Kal. June, 1349.

John de Aldewyncl, Priest, instituted 4 Non. Aug., 1356.

"Joh. de Aldewyncl per p. P. & Conv. de Burncestr ad vicar de Burncestr p resign. Joh. "Osmund ex causa pmutac. de ipsa eum ecclia de Eleford ejusd. dioc. 4 Non. Aug. 1356."—(Reg^r of Bishop Gynwell.)

William Belamy, instituted 20 Nov. 1371.

"Pmutacio int. Joh. Aldewyncl vicar eccl. de Burencestr & Will. Belamy vicar eccl. de "Weregraue Sarum dioc. de patr. Abb. & Conv. de Reding. 20 Nov. 1371."—(Reg^r. of Bishop Bokyngham.)

John Paulyn

"John Paulyn, perpetual Vicar of Burncester, and Richard atte Grene, Capellane, received in "trust one messuage, one virgate of land with a curtilage and wood adjacent, situated in "Burncester Bury-end, from William Byfield, and Agnes his wife, which they conveyed back "to them for certain purposes, by a charter dated at Burncester Jan^r. 12, 1391."—(Ken. P. A sub hoc an.)

William Campyon, Capellane, instituted 5 Sept., 1401.

Ralph Philip, instituted 10 March, 1412.

¹ The names and dates of institution, which follow, until 1565, are taken from the Lincoln Registers, which commence in 1217.

"Permutacio¹ int. Radhum Philip rector eccl. de Chilworth dioc. Wells et de collacoe ep. "B.W., et Will. Campyon vicar eccl. de Burncestre, 10 Mar., 1412.—(Linc. Reg. of Bp. Repyngdon.)

But the exchange was only temporary.

"Will. Campyon pr. p. Prior et Conv. de Burncestre ad eccl. de Burncestre p. resig. Radi "Philip, 1 Sep., 1414.—(Linc. Reg. of Bp. Repyngdon.)

John Odam, instituted 18 Oct. 1434.

Richard Braylis (or Brailes), Priest, instituted 29 July, 1479.

Thomas Kirkeby, instituted 1 Dec., 1481.

John Stainley, instituted 2 March, 1511.

"Magr. Joh. Stainley pr. p. Prior & Conv. de Burcester ad vicar. eccl. de Burcester p. resign.

"Mag. Tho. Kyrkby, 2 Mar. 1511. (Ann. pens. 17 libr. resignanti.)—(Reg. W. Smyth.)

Florence Volusey,

Peter Griffith,

"1530. March 26. Sir² Peter Gryffyth, chaplain, presented by the Prior and Convent of Bicester to the vicarage, on the resignation of Master Florence Volusey.

He died the year after the dissolution of the Priory. The king failing to claim so poor a benefice, the right of presentation lapsed to the Bishop of the diocese (John Longland), who then instituted

John Philipps,

"1537. Sept. 6. Sir John Phillipps, chaplain, collated by the Bp. of Lincoln, on the death "of Sir Peter Gryffith."

Three years later the king sold the advowson to Roger Moore, Esq., the purchaser of the other property of the dissolved Priory. From that time, 1540, the advowson has been in private hands, some of whom have sold their right of presentation.

John Wilkyns, instituted at Buckden.

"1541. Sept. 21. Sir John Wylkyns, chaplain, presented by Benedict Wyckins and Thomas "Shoer, of Bicester, by reason of a grant from Roger More, Esq., on the death of John Philipps."

Buried in the Church, on December 2nd, 1558. A black letter inscription to his memory in one of the windows was legible a century later.

There is mention of "William Gray, a priest," buried on Feb. 1, 1543—4, and of "Sir Henry Mathew, curate," in 1544.

Thomas Apsley (or Aspler), presented by Agnes Wentworth, widow, instituted March 8, 1558—9.

¹ See the Priory Bursar's Accoonts of 1412, under the head of Foreign Expenses.

² "Sir" is a translation of the Latin "dominus," which was not a clerical title, but the uniform prefix to the name of any one, who had taken the B.A. degree in the Universities, as may still be seen in the Tripos list of the Cambridge Calendar, where each column is headed by an abbreviated form of the word, D's. During the reign of Elizabeth there were many Sirs among the

parochial clergy, want of learning or means debarring them from the higher degree of M.A. These Sirs had passed the Trivium only; to proceed to M.A. they must have prolonged their residence in the University, and proved themselves adepts in the Quadrivium, for an M.A. was master of the seven liberal arts or sciences. The reputation of these Sirs for scholarship was not very high, as Master Latimer's flout at the Sir John's lack Latin, and mumbled matins of his day, shows.

Richard Alredge (or Aldridge), presented by Ann Chamberlain, widow of Sir Roger Ormeston, instituted June 26, 1564; resigned.

George Osbath, presented by the same, instituted, Sept. 4, 1565.

Robert Phipps.

The following records in the Archdeacon's and Bishop's Courts place his connection with the parish in a very unhappy light.

"23 May, 1584¹.

"John Planstofer, of Burcester, cited for Raylinge against Mr. Sawle, a preacher, calling "him knave and plagye knave, and likewise against Mr. Robert Phippes, Vicar of Burcester, "answers That on Sundaye, the thirde of Maye, 1584, after none, Mr.² Phippes, y^e vicar of "Burcester, and Mr. Sawle, a preacher, passed bye the howse of this respondent, whoe then sate "on his blocke at the Church Wall in Burcester, and Mr. Phippes and Mr. Saule passing bye "weare talking of a plague of God, insomuch as Mr. Saule sayd when they came neare this "respondent, Call you this the plague of God, whereunto this respondent sayde, a plague on "a knave, ad ceteros," &c.

"Decr. 22, 1593.³

"There appeared George Tayler, one of the Churchwardens of Byseter, Thomas Clements, "Edwd. Willise, Christopher Ffrancklin, Rowland Mortimer, William Wasket, Edmund Bodycot, "and they allege, That they have had no service wthin the parishe Church of Burcester by "Mr. Phippes, the Vicar there, since the last quarter sessions, and that the said Mr. Phippes, "being required by the Churchwardens to lett them have service, doth say he will say no service "their untill the assyses be past, neither shall anie man else do yt for him, unles some men "wyll be bounde to save him harmles, that he may come and goe saffe to the Church.—And "because ytt dothe appeare unto the judge that they have wanted service for the space of a "month and more, as by the presentment of y^e 11th of Decemb^r yt doth appeare, Therefore yt "was ordered by the sayd judge that they shall gett one to reade divine service, and y^t Mr. "Do: Blincow take order for his paym^t after his return.

"Sunday, 23rd March, 1593.

"Mr. Rob^t Phippes, } By the greater Excommunication Phippes appeared, and
"Vicar of Bysiter. } acknowledges y^t he did neglect the servinge of his cure in his
"pish. church. And the lord enjoined him y^t as he is sorre, he is absolved from the suspension
"above; that the first day he shall come to serve the cure himself, he shall confesse his said
"fault in the church, &c. And immediately the lord absolved him, and restored to him the
"Sacraments of the Church, he having first taken an oath about obeying the commands of the
"Church.

"13th April, 1594.

"The Churchwardens of Bissiter appeared, and Thomas West, a parishioner of the said
"parish of Bissiter, and on the strength of an oath taken by them, They present Mr. Phippes,
"their vicar, for discharginge the pisher. of Bissiter to pay their oblations to the sequestrators,

¹ Extracts from the Records of the Archdeacon of Oxford's Court, in Turner's Ecclesiastical Records, M.S. vol. xv., in Bodleian Library, Oxford.

² Mr., a corruption of Magister, became the common designa-

tion of all clergymen at this time. During the Commonwealth, it was changed to Minister. The title Reverend was not applied to the clergy during life before the middle of the last century.

³ Records of Bishop of Oxford's Court, in the same.

"after that he had heard the sequestration published in the Church, saying that he would warrant all that refused to pay, &c. Also wee do present him for disordered speeches in the Church in the presence of y^e pisheres., as namelie, th^t speakinge these words, vid., upon the publication of the sequestration he said y^t he esteemed of the seale, but not of the informer, nor of Mr. Do. Blincow, his ordinarie,¹ of whom he hath had noe indifferent dealing, nor doth looke for anie, neither doth he care for him, the least haire of his head. And to Mr. Lodington, being a Bachelor of Divinitie, and sent by Mr. Do. Blincow to preach and communion their duringe the time of Mr. Phippes his suspension, he, the said Phippes, said openlie in the Church unto him, in derision or scoffinge mann^r, You are a trime man, as it seemeth you beginne wth yo^r pence, but you might have done well to beginne with yo^r praiera.

"Wherefore the lord decreed that Phippes should be cited on the morrow, namely, the 27th inst. of the month of May, to render, &c.

"Also we present John Durham, Katherine Prichet, Alice Eames, and others for refusing to pay their oblacon to the sequestrators."

Robert Canham, instituted 1596; resigned on preferment.

John Bird, presented by Sir Richard Blount; instituted Feb. 15, 1604—5; in 1614 presented to the adjoining rectory of Wendlebury, where after that time he resided.²

A presentment of him was made at the Archdeacon of Oxford's Court.

"1631, Sept. 28th.

<p>"Offi. Dni. c^a Mr. Johem "Bird, clecum. Rec. de "Burcester.</p>	}	<p>"Mr. Bird appeared, &c., and answers that the Clarke, after the time usuall gave him notice to praye for a sicke person, whom he did not know to be sicke, and therefore he did not pray for him in the forenoon, and before evening prayer he was requested to pray for the same ptie, and he called the Clarke to put him in mind thereof, but the Clarke forgot it, and he himself forgot it, and thereuppon did not pray for the said sicke person, submitting himself, &c.</p>
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"And for the cover of the Chalice he taketh it that it is about 18 years since it was lost, and it was not delivered to this respondent, neither did he take charge thereof, and therefore he is not bound to make it good, as he says; and for the £4 demanded of him he sayeth he spent xx nobles in suit for the recovery, 30s. out of the Exchequer for bread and wine at the Coions, for w^{ch} ther^s is £10 arrerages unpaid, of w^{ch} he was, and is, contented to pay £4 to the Churchwardens, whensoever he should recover £x of the king or out of the Exchequer, and will assent to pay to the Churchwardens £4 two years himself, if they will accept it."

Mr. Bird held the Vicarage of Burcester one year short of half a century. He died in 1653, and was buried at Wendlebury.

The name of "James Nurth, Minister," appears in the Parish Registers in 1609.

In the year after Mr. Bird's death, Cromwell appointed a number of Commissioners, whose duty it should be to inquire into the fitness of all preachers nominated or presented to benefices.

¹ The See of Oxford was now vacant.

—13—16 and 18.

² His children were baptized in Burcester Church, in 1607—10

³ See value of the Vicarage which follows.

Mr. William Hall was at this time Curate of this parish,¹ having received episcopal ordination, and he had so far commended himself to the parishioners, that he was approved and appointed by the Commissioners, (called Triers,) to the vacant Vicarage.² In the next year the use of the Prayer Book was made "scandalous,"³ and two years later it was prohibited. Mr. Hall bowed to these injunctions, and while Bishop Skinner, the ejected Bishop of Oxford, was faithfully continuing the liturgy in the adjoining parish of Launton, he must have adopted the doctrines and practices of the Presbyterians, for such of the Parishioners as were ready to accept them. At the Restoration of the monarchy Mr. Hall conformed, accepting the Prayer Book as revised by Parliament and Convocation. Hence we may conjecture that his ministry had been but little antagonistic to the Church and Crown, and that, like many others,⁴ seeing the confusion of the times, he gladly welcomed the Restoration. A gravestone in the Chancel spoke nothing of his chequered life, but only recorded,

"Here lie the bodies of
 "William Hall, Vicar of this Parish,⁵ and Susanna, his wife;
 "He departed this life, 8 July, 1670, She 27 October, 1672.
 "They had VII. children. William, who died at Dedington; Anne, Susanna, Catherine, buried here;
 "Samuel, Elizabeth, Mary, still survive their parents."

The name of "Mr. John Robinson, the Curate," is mentioned in the Parish Registers in 1658, and that of "Mr. Nicholas Gowen,⁶ Curate," in the records of the Bishop's Visitation in 1663.

Vicar.	Presented by	Instituted	Vacated
Samuel Blackwell, B.D.	| Sir W. Glynne	| Aug. 16, 1670	| By Preferment.

White Kennett, afterwards Vicar of Ambrosden, and Bishop of Peterborough, was Curate during this incumbency, and became a personal friend of the Vicar. On Aug. 1, 1691, Mr. Blackwell was inducted into the Rectory of Brampton, in Northamptonshire,⁶ and then left Burcester.

¹ Entries of the baptisms of his children occur in 1650—52, as well as in 1655—58; and of the burial of two in 1665—66.

² It was the custom to associate with the Triers persons from the places to which ministers were to be appointed. There was no direction to scrutinize the creed of any candidate before them. All that was to be decided was whether the Commissioners considered the candidate to be "a person, for the grace of God in him, his holy and unblameable conversation, as also for his knowledge and utterance, able and fit to preach the Gospel." The penalties for not reading the 39 Articles of Religion were at the same time abolished.

³ "Such persons as have frequently read the Common Prayer in public, or shall hereafter do the same," were adjudged to be "scandalous ministers," and "such as shall be so declared and adjudged by the Commissioners in every county" were to be accounted "ignorant and insufficient."—(Scobell, 335—40.)

⁴ The ministers in possession of Churches at the Restoration were generally Presbyterians, for the Independents and Sects were prevented by their principles, with a few exceptions, from taking benefices, or recognizing parishes. Calamy and Baxter admit that 7,000 complied under the Act of Uniformity, while about 1,000 only were ejected. Baxter says "Many that were in the Parliament's army conformed, and some that were for the king's death."

⁵ Mr. Dunkin says, on a conjecture of his own, void of any authority, "I am inclined to conclude that a Mr. Basnet, or Barnet, obtained the cure, which he held till the year 1666, when he was ejected as a non-conformist, by the Bartholomew Act; his name does not occur in Kennett's list, but he is particularly mentioned in Palmer's Non-conformist's Memorial, vol. ii. p. 309."

⁶ Afterwards he was Chaplain of Piddington, and married Mrs. Hall, the widow of his former Vicar.

⁶ Dr. Kennett sent him the proof-sheets of his P. A., and a letter is extant, in which he answers some objections made by Mr. Blackwell to a passage in that book, and adds, "I am glad you like the seat of Mr. Coker; some other seats of Sir Wm. Glynne, Sir John Aubrey, Dr. South, &c., are to be soon printed at their own respective charge, two guineas each table. The figure of the Church of Burcester, and the seal of that deanery, must be inscribed to you, because of your late relation to that place, though I am very tender of putting you to any expense in these hard times."

"Yr most obliged faithful friend,

"St. Edmund Hall,

"WHITE KENNETT.

"July 7, 1694."

—Kennett's P. A., MCCCXVI., foot note in new edition.

A marble tablet to the memory of five children (out of six born in Burcester) exists on the N. wall of the Chancel,

(Five skulls above.)

"Samuel Blackwell, S.S.B., hujus ecclesiæ vicarius

"Et Maria uxor

"Filiis et filiabus suis

"Hic in proximo sepultis

"Samueli	} natis	{	Maii 26, 1676	} denatis	Sept. 1 1677
"Samueli			Jan. 4, 1680		Jan. 31 1678
"Elizabethe			April 26, 1680		Feb. 15 } 1681
"Johanni			April 17, 1681		Feb. 14 }
"Eleanoræ			Oct. 21, 1683		Mart. 2 1684

"Pietatis causa

"Mœreenter posuere."

"In this Deanery of Burcester, I think the last Rural Dean¹ (nominated by an excellent "judge of men and merits, the Right Rev. Dr. John Fell, Bishop of Oxford) was Mr. Samuel "Blackwell, B.D., then Vicar of that Church; who (as an exemplary supervisor of the Clergy "and a diligent assertor of the rights of the Church) had been duly qualified for that office, if "it had continued in all the dignity and authority of its primitive institution."

Thomas Shewring,² M.A., presented by Sir W. Glynne; instituted Aug. 1, 1691; resigned on preferment.

Thomas Taylor,³ M.A., presented by same; instituted April 20, 1696.

"Thomas Taylour, son of Will. Taylour, of Newton Regis, in Warwickshire, became servitor "of Magdalen Coll. in 1686, aged 17 years, but that house being soon after dissolved, upon the "coming in of the popish fellows, by authority from King James II., he became one of the "clerks of All Souls' Coll., where continuing near a year, was, upon the restoracion of the "Protestant fellows to Magd. Coll., made demy of that house. In 1694, he became Vicar and "Schoolmaster of Bicester, in Oxfordshire, upon the removal thence of Mr. Tho. Shewring "to a benefice in Wilts. He translated from French into English (1) A Voyage to the World "of Cartesins, Lond. 1694, oct.; (2) Companion of Thucydides and Livy, Lond. 1694, oct.; "written by Monsieur Rapin."—(Wood's Ath. Ox., vol. iv.)"

Thomas Forbes,⁴ M.A., presented by Sir W. Glynne; instituted July 11, 1702.

Buried within the Sacarium of the Chancel.

"Thomas Forbes, hujus ecclesiæ vicarius, ob^t X^{mo} IV^{to} die. Octob. anno 1715, Anno Ætat. 44."

Thomas Airson, B.A., presented by same; instituted Nov. 24, 1715.

Buried next his predecessor's grave.

M. S.

"Thomas Airson, hujusce ecclesiæ per triginta sex annos vicarii. Obiit Martii 24^{to} 1752. "Anno Ætat. 71^{mo}

¹ Kennett's P. A. The office of R. D. was then suspended, and not renewed until 1832, in which year the Rev. W. D. Roundell, Rector of Fringford, was appointed to it.

² A child of his was baptized at Burcester in 1692, and was buried here in the year following.

³ Three of his children were baptized at Burcester in 1696, 1698, 1700, and one was buried here in 1701.

⁴ Two of his children were baptized in Burcester Church in 1705 and 1709. There is mention also of "the wife of Major Alexander Forbes," buried at Burcester in 1711.

"Hannah, the wife of Thomas Airson, Vicar, who died June 13, 1751. Aged 69 years."

"Here lye four children of Thomas Airson, Vicar of this Church, and Hannah, his wife, viz., Mary, John, Hannah, and Thomas, who died yonng."

John Prinsep, B.A., presented by Sir E. Turner; instituted Sept. 14, 1752; presented in 1755 to the neighbouring rectory of Hethe.

Ob. 1768¹. Buried at Burcester, Oct. 16 of that year.

Samuel Cooke, M.A., presented by same; instituted Dec. 27, 1768; resigned on preferment.

John Cooke, M.A., presented by same; instituted June 29, 1769; resigned.

George Bray, presented by same; instituted April 19, 1774; resigned.

Joseph Eyre, presented by same; instituted Nov. 30, 1779; in the same year presented by same to the adjoining Vicarage of Ambrosden, where he resided; in 1794 presented to the Rectory of St. Giles', Reading; resigned this Vicarage in 1797.

"Died on the 3rd inst. (Sept. 1816) at Reading, Berks, the Rev. Joseph Eyre, M.A., Rector of St. Giles', Reading, Vicar of Ambrosden, Oxon, and Prebendary of St. Paul's, London. He was in private life amiable, respected, and beloved, and peculiarly well suited to the profession he made choice of; the discharge of its duties was in intervals of ease from much bodily suffering, the occupation and pleasure of his life."²

There is a monument to his memory in Ambrosden Church.

Thomas Pardo Brett, M.A., presented by the same; instituted Sept. 5, 1797; Curate of Ambrosden, where he resided. Buried at Ambrosden, where a tablet records

"Sacred to the memory of

"Thomas Pardo Brett, M.A.,

"Vicar of Bicester, Curate of this Parish,

"and sometime Fellow of Worcester Coll., Oxford,

"Who died 17 April, 1800, aged 29 years.

"Also of Emma Pardo youngest daughter of the above,

"Who died 9 July, 1824, aged 24 years.

"Also of Mary, eldest daughter of the above,

"Who died 22 April, 1846, aged 47 years.

"Also of Mary, wife of the above Rev. T. P. Brett,

"Who died 23 Sept., 1846, aged 74 years.

"Their remains are gathered in the nave of this Church."

None of the last five vicars had resided at Burcester.

This was that period in the history of the Church of this country, which is a simple blank. Never, probably, had any religious community fallen into so deep a sleep as the Church of England in the latter half of the last, and the first quarter of the present century. There were many honourable exceptions, but the great mass of the clergy, both bishops and parish priests,

¹ He and two relations died of the fever prevalent in the town.

"Oct. 9. Susannah, daughter of Mr. John Prinsep, Vicar."

"— 13. Catherine, daughter of Mrs. Sarah Prinsep, Widow."

"— 16. The Rev. John Prinsep, Vicar."

(Burcester Register of Burials.)

"Sarah Prinsep, widow of the late Vicar," was buried at Burcester, on Jan. 20, 1781.

² *Times* Newspaper, September 6th, 1816

were non-resident, and utterly careless of their duties, which they delegated to curates, who were often miserably remunerated for the services they rendered.

The names of two Curates, resident in the Vicarage at this period, were
 "Zachæus Wood" (1776—87),¹ and "Edward Turner" (1787—1804).²

John Smith, M.A., presented by Sir G. P. Turner; instituted Oct. 2, 1800.

He came to reside in the Vicarage House in 1805, but ceased his residence six years afterwards, when he removed to Fosbrook, in Staffordshire.

The Curates in charge were

John Markland,³ 1811—19.

C. H. Peel, 1819—21.

J. L. Turner, 1821—31.

Frederick Ackers Dawson,⁴ 1831—34.

John Ellitt Robinson,⁵ 1834—35.

William James Heale,⁶ 1835.

Edward Parker, M.A., presented by the Crown in consequences of the lunacy of Sir Gregory P. Turner; instituted Dec. 16, 1835.

Oriel College, Oxford, B.A. 3rd class Lit. Hum. 1830, M.A. 1832, Deacon 1833, Priest 1834.

The abuse of absenteeism, which had lasted about 60 years, now ceased. Mr. Parker resided at Burcester till his preferment to the Rectory of Great Oxenden, in Northamptonshire, in 1843.

John William Watts, M.A., presented by Helen P. Turner; instituted Oct. 30, 1843; of Magd. Hall, Oxford, B.A. 1828, M.A. 1838, Deacon 1829, Priest 1831; Chaplain of St. James', Guernsey, 1834—38; Perpetual Curate of Downside, near Bath, 1834—40.

Resigned the Vicarage of Bicester, under the Benefices' Resignation Act, 1881, when a pension of £109 per annum was assigned to him.

John Blackburne Kane, M.A., presented by T. Chinnery, Esq., of Lyndhurst, Hants, the purchaser of this turn of presentation; instituted in the Parish Church of Bicester, by the Bishop of Oxford, on Oct. 29, 1881.

This was probably the first public institution held in this Church.

CHURCH REGISTERS.

Parish Registers are of later introduction in England than in some continental countries. In France they were kept in some form or other as early as 1308, and in Spain Cardinal Ximenes, Archbishop of Toledo, in a synod held in his diocese in 1497, ordained their keeping in every parish. But in England they were first ordered by Cromwell, then Vicar-General, in 1538. The Registers of Bicester, with those of 812 other parishes, commence from the year

¹ Buried at Burcester on Feb. 4, 1786—7.

² Children were born to him, and baptized at Burcester in 1791, 92, 94, 96, 97, 1800.

³ Dunkin, in 1816, says that the Vicarage "is now occupied by Mr. Markland."

⁴ Brasenose Coll., Oxford, B.A. 1818, M.A. 1820, Deacon 1829, Priest 1830. After he left Bicester he obtained a Chap-

laincy in the Hon. E. I. C. Service (1835—54), and in 1854 was preferred to the Rectory of Buscot, Berks.

⁵ Ch. Ch., Oxon, B.A. 1829, M.A. 1832, Deacon 1832, Priest 1833. Preferred to the Rectory of Chieveley, Berks, in 1837.

⁶ Wadham Coll., Oxon, B.A. 1831, M.A. 1834, Deacon 1833, Priest 1834. Preferred in 1849 to the Vicarage of Wombourne, near Wolverhampton.

after that date, and are therefore amongst the earliest in this country. In 1597 a constitution of the Province of Canterbury required a copy of all parish registers to be sent each year to the Registry of the Diocese, and that the entries made in them should be read aloud once a year in Church, after morning or evening prayer. This led to the earlier entries, down to 1599, being copied by the same hand into the oldest of the existing books. From that time, with rare exceptions, these Registers have been well kept, though it is evident that the entries have been generally made, not separately, but collectively, from a list furnished probably by the parish clerk. They consequently contain little more than a string of names, with a remarkable absence of any records of a local or personal interest.

VALUE OF THE CHURCH AND VICARAGE.

The value of a Church in the earliest times depended on the amount of population attached to it, because the larger the town or village the greater were the offerings of the living, and the obits for the dead. The Church of Burncestre, therefore, was originally the most valuable in this district. Some land also, probably about 50 acres, had been early given towards its endowment. But Robert of Oily's gift of tithe to St. George's Chapel within the Castle of Oxford¹ (afterwards commuted to a payment of £2 per annum to Osney Abbey), and Gilbert Basset's gift of the same to Eynesham Abbey,² first lessened its legitimate value. When this Church was given to the Priory, the monks impropriated all its revenues, only assigning from them the smallest sum possible to that one of their number who undertook this vicarage, and the care of the adjoining Chapel of Stratton. Two abuses followed, an insufficient income for the parochial clergyman, and his residence within the Priory, whereby such manifest injury was done to the parish that the aid of the Bishop of the diocese was invoked. Hugh Welles (Bishop of Lincoln, 1209—35) then conformed the following ordinance³ in, or just before, the year 1226.⁴

"The Ordination of the Vicarage of Berencestre.

"The Vicarage of the Church of Berencestre, which belongs to the Priory and Convent "of the same place, has been ordained by the authority of a Council after this manner. The "Vicar shall have for his stipend, and for those of his Chaplain and Clerks 40^s annually, to "be allotted in certain portions; and he and his Chaplain and Clerks shall have their food from "the Priory, sufficient for the Chaplains and Clerks, and he shall have from the Priory hay "and provender for one horse; and he shall have their offerings, namely, 1^d for a burial, and "1^d for marriages, and 1^d for purifications, and on Christmas-day 3^d, on Easter-day 2^d, and "at each of the other two chief festivals 1^d; also the offerings at confessions, and by legacy "as far as 6^d; and what is more the Vicar and the Canons shall halve. He shall have "besides a sufficient manse outside the Priory. But the Canons shall undertake all the due

¹ See Early History of this Deanery, p. 58.

Mr. Selden in his History of Tithes cites this gift as a proof of the supposed right of lay patrons to alienate tithes from the parish church at their arbitrary will. Dr. Comber, in his Vindication of Tithes, p. 209, refutes this, and shows that Robert of Oily had the consent and confirmation of Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury,

and Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln.—See Kennett's argument in P.A., Anno. MCXLIX. New ed.

² See p. 3.

³ The ordination of a vicarage, i.e., the official appropriation of certain parts of the endowment for the maintenance of a vicar, required episcopal confirmation.

⁴ See list of vicars.

"and accustomed burdens of the Church, except that belonging to the parish. And the "Vicarage is worth . . . , but the whole Church is worth xx marks."¹

This was a fair allowance for the times.² In 1222, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Stephen Langton, had fixed five marks (£3 8s. 4d.) as the yearly pension of a perpetual vicar,³ and the sum allowed here, with fees and allowances of food and fuel, exceeded this. The maintenance of a horse was a necessity for the Vicar's daily visits to the Chapel at Stratton.

In obedience to the direction given a house was built outside the Priory walls on the spot where the present Vicarage now stands. This ground was then part of the Churchyard,⁴ but as the Priory possessed no other convenient, it was appropriated for the Vicar's manse and garden. The Vicarage becoming thus permanently endowed, the holders of it were henceforth styled Perpetual Vicars.

The Norwich Taxation (1254) gives the yearly value of this church at 15 marks only (£9 18s. 0d.) but this was probably its estimated value, after the stipends of the vicar and clerks had been deducted. At Pope Nicholas' Taxation (1291) this value was higher,

	£	s.	d.
"The Church of Burncestre with pensions deducted	12	0	0
"The pension of the Abbot of Aunay ⁵ in the same	1	6	8
"The pension of the Abbot of Oseney in the same	2	0	0
"The pension of the Abbot of Eynesham ⁶ in the same	0	12	0"

An addition had at the same time been made to the Vicar's stipend, so that the Vicarage worth £1 10s. in 1254, was then returned as worth £2 13s. 4d. per annum in money.⁷

At the taxation of the Nincths, 1339, the increased value of the church was suffering a temporary reduction.

¹ Lincoln Registers. The original Latin form is given in Kennett's Par. Ant. Anno. MCCCCXIII.

In the Books of Terriers in the Archdeacon of Oxford's office, (vol. i, p. 801) there is a copy of the first ordinance of the Vicarage of Berencestre, and under it is written by Mr. Taylor, (vicar 1691—6)

"Concordat cum Regro } T. Taylor."
"Episcopatus Lincoln }

² The King's Chaplains at Woodstock and Windsor received 50s. per annum, and probably other allowances, as this rate of money payment alone was below that of common labourers. Merton College paid the Chaplain at Farley, an impropriate benefice of that college, 46s. 2d. in 1278, and seems to have succeeded in reducing his stipend to 26s. 8d.—two marks, in 1305. On the other hand the king's Chaplain at Langley received £10 per annum. (Professor Rogers' Agricultural Prices).

³ In the Council held at Oxford, in 1222, it was decreed that where a Church had no greater revenue than five marks per annum, it should be conferred on none but such as should constantly reside in person in the place. (Spelman Conc. Angl., vol. ii.)

A single priest might therefore subsist on five marks, but he could not maintain a curate or chaplain. Accordingly Stephen

Langton fixed that sum, or whatever might produce that sum, as a Perpetual Vicar's allowance.

⁴ Human remains have continually been dug up in the Vicarage garden, even within late years. At the recent enlargement of the Vicarage House (1882) two skulls were found below the floor of the oldest room.

⁵ The tithes of the adjoining village of Bigenhulle belonged to Kirtlington, but the Priory purchased them for a yearly payment to the Abbey of Aunay, in Normandy, the impropiators.

⁶ Gilbert Bassett, Sen., had given to the Abbey of Eynsham the tithes of his demesne at Stratton, and his grandson of the same name had given a virgate of land in the same village to the Priory of Burncester. This led to a dispute between the two houses, which was referred for settlement to Philip, Prior of St. Frideswide's, and Richard of Eilesbury, who adjudged that the tithes of Stratton should be annexed to Burncester Priory in exchange for a pension of 12s. per annum to Eynsham Abbey. This pension was then charged, not on the temporalities of the Priory, but on the impropriated tithes of the Parish Church. (Kennett's P.A. MCLXXXVIII.)

⁷ See Part I of this History, p. 74, where it will be seen that, with the exception of Charlton and Kirtlington, this Church still remained the most valuable in this neighbourhood.

"Burncestre.

"The Parish Church of the same with all its portions was taxed at xv^e „ xviii^s „ viij^d. of which the ninth lamb, fleece, and sheaf are assessed at xiiij^s „ xiiij^s „ iiij^d as appears by "an inquisition indented, taken on the oath of Thomas Purcel, Richard le Poure, Henry de "Boweles, Thomas le Gaye, Thomas de Kymbell, Richard de Byrcestre, John Gerard, Thomas "de Stapenhull, John Jurdan, John le Clerk, Robert Schane, and John the son of Walter, "who say upon their oath that the ninths of the said parish are no more than is written "above, because the Rector of the same village holds L acres of land, and the glebe is "worth yearly vi^s „ viij^d, and the lord of the village has 1 carucate of land uncultivated, "and the tithe of hay, oblations, heriots, with the small tithes of the value of viij^s „ viij^d. "And thus it is less than it was taxed for the same reason as they say. They say also "that in the aforesaid parish there are no men of chattels, nor merchants who live without "agriculture, stock of sheep, or other animals.¹

An account was duly kept of all the receipts and expenses connected with the Parish Church, and the Chapel of Stratton. Some of these accounts have been preserved, and are valuable, both as presenting a table of very early ecclesiastical fees, and as indirectly serving for some of the earliest parochial registers extant.

"Account of Brother William de Barton, of receipts of the Vicarage of Burcester and "Stratton, 1340.²

"October. For the marriage of Walter Neweman, of Stratton, 18^d. For the marriage "of John Crowell, of Burcester, 15^d. For the marriage of John Couherd de Burcester, 15^d. "For the purification of Joan Wattes, 5½^d. For the burial of the boy Stordy de Burcester, "4^d. For the purification of a woman of Stratton, 2^d. For small tithes, 9^d. For anniver- "saries, 12^d. Sum.. 6^s 8½^d

"November. For marriage of John Brown, of Burcester, 2^s; burial of one of Stratton, "2^d; burial of 2 boys of Burcester, 3^d; burial of one of Langton, 2^d; purification of a "woman of Stratton, 1^d; burial from Langeton, ¾^d; purification of the wife of . . . 4^d; "purification of a woman of Stratton, 2^d. On the day of S. Katherine, 2^d; marriage of "John Cornande, 2^s 6^d. Two purifications, 3^d. For small tithes, 15^d. For anniversaries, 7^d. "Sum... 8^s.

"December. Burial of Emma Welifed, 3^d; burial of one of Stratton of the Mill, 7^d; "of small tithes, 2^s and at the Nativity at Burcester, 12^s and at the same day at Stratton, "3^s, and of anniversaries, 6^d. Sum... 18^s 4^d.

"January. Burial of the son of William the gardener, ¾^d; burial of a poor person of "Stratton, 1½^d; purification of the wife of Andrew Taylor, 2^d; purification of the wife of "Robert Thommes, 3^d; burial of William Elyot, 7^d; burial of Hugh Halleman, of Stratton, "15^d; burial of the wife of John Abbot, 2^s 4^d; burial of Agnes Maleward, 2½^d; marriage "of Thomas Robert, 18^d; marriage of Geoffrey Ba . . . 16^d; burial of John Maykyn's "boy, 1½^d; marriage of Thomas de Brudon, 18^d; marriage of Willliam Squier, 13^d; two

¹ At a Parliament holden at Westminster, 14 Ed. III, the sub-
sidy of a ninth and fifteenth was granted to the king. The ninth
consisted of the ninth lamb, fleece, and sheaf to be taken for two
years, and in cities and boroughs the ninth part of all goods and

chattels. A fifteenth was to be taken from merchants and such
persons as lived not of their gain or store.

² Burcestre Priory Accounts in Record Office.

"marriages of Stratton, 15^d; purification from the same place, $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d; burial of a boy killed, 2^d;
 "a marriage of Stratton, 9^d; for Anniversaries, 7^d. Sum.... 13^s 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ ^d.

"February. The day of the Purification of the Blessed Mary at Burcester, 17^d; at
 "Stratton the same day, $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d; burial of the wife of Robert Frend, 9^d; purification of the wife
 "of William Soffeld, 3^d; burial of a boy of Stratton, 2^d; burial of Nicholas Hammond, of
 "Bygenhull, 8^d; burial of the son of John Caverfold, 11^d; burial of Nicholas Henry, 2^s 7^d;
 "For anniversaries, 7^d; Sum.... 7^s 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d.

"March. Purification of Alice Stotard, 2^d; burial of Joan Isolde, 9^d; burial of Joan
 "Frer, 11^d; burial of the son of John Fayremay, 2^s; purification of one from Wrechwick,
 "1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ^d; burial of a poor person, 3^d; burial of Juliana Serych, 5^d. Anniversaries, 6^d. Small
 "tithes, 18^d. Sum.... 6^s 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ ^d.

"April. Burial of the son of Boteras, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d; purification of the wife of the Chamberlain, 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ ^d;
 "on Easter Day at Berncester from the Cross, and for several other persons, who commu-
 "nicated, in three days, 16^s; and from Stratton at the same feast, 4^s 9^d; three purifications
 "in Easter Week, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ^d; burial from Langeton, 2^d; burial of Robert Pynchon, of Stratton, 12^d;
 "burial of a boy of Stratton, 5^d; two purifications of Burcester, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ^d; marriage of Robert
 "Frer, 3^d. Anniversaries, 7^d. Sum.... 24^s 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ ^d.

"May. Burial of the son of Simon the farmer of Bygenhull, 18^d; Burial of the mother
 "of Richard Serych, 12^d; burial of Alice Pythynton, 4^d; burial of a boy of Stratton, 2^d;
 "burial of the son of Richard le Blake of Bygenhull, 9^d; purification of the wife of Richard
 "le Taylor, $\frac{2}{3}$ ^d. Small tithes, 2^s 6^d. Anniversaries, 6^d. Sum.... 6^s 9 $\frac{2}{3}$ ^d.

"June. Burial of one of Stratton, 3^d; burial of one of Burcester, 4^d; a purification
 "from Burcester, 1^d; burial of the wife of Robert Eliot of Stratton, 12^d; burial of Robert
 "Frer, 3^d; and on the day of S. Edburg Virgin at the Parish Church, 6^s; purification of
 "Saire Drule, 1^d; marriage from Blakethurne, 8^d; burial of a boy of the same, 2^d; purifi-
 "cation of the wife of William Foul, of Wrechewick, $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d; burial of the same boy, 4^d; burial
 "of a boy from Stratton, 4^d. Small tithes, 19^d. Anniversaries, 2^s 5^d. Sum.... 11^s 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d.

"July. At the translation of S. Thomas the Martyr, 4^d; two purifications from Burcester,
 "1^d; marriage of John Serych, 10^d; burial of the boy of John Stevenes, 3^d; burial of
 "Roger Colles, of Stratton, 9^d; on the day of S. James, 2^d; burial of William Bolerode,
 "8^d; burial of one of Langeton, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d. Anniversaries, 6^d. Dedication of the Church of Bur-
 "cester, 5^s. Tithes, 20^d. Sum.... 10^s 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d.

"August. Burial of the wife of John Parson, 1^d; burial of the son of Rafe Lef, $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d;
 "burial of a boy of Stratton, $\frac{2}{3}$ ^d; a purification from Burcester, 3^d; purification of the wife
 "of Hugh Page, 4^d; burial of two boys of Burcester and Stratton, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d; burial of two boys
 "of Burcester, 3^d; burial of a boy of Langeton, 2^d; burial of the son of Thomas de Caun-
 "terbury, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d. Anniversaries, 3^d. Sum.... 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d.

"September. Burial of a boy of Stratton, 3^d; a purification from Stratton, 3^d; purifi-
 "cation of the wife of John Goldes, 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ ^d; purification of Alice Janenes, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d; burial of a
 "boy of Doune, 1^d; burial of two of Langeton, 8^d; purification of one of Burcester, 3^d;
 "for another purification from the same, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ^d; burial of a poor person of the same, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ^d; on
 "whole year, 15^s 2^d. For procurations of the Parish Church, 7^s 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ ^d. For two synods, 3^s.
 "Expenses of William de Worton for prosecuting for tithes of calves at times at Oxford,
 "2^s. For incense, 3^d. Half bushel of salt, 7^d. For the Dairy in "collectresses" of milk

"the day of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary at Stratton, 2^s 10^d; purification of one there, 1½^d; burial of a boy of Burcester, 1½^d; burial of William Walt, 13^d; marriage of John de Burcester, 8^d; burial of one of Stratton, 3^d; purification of the wife of Wyvie, 3^d; burial of the son of Robert Clerk, 7¼^d; the day of the Dedication of Stratton, 3^s Anniversaries, 6^d. Sum, 11^s 9¾^d.

"Monies received for wool, cheese, hogs, flax, hemp, and sheep sold. Sum, £8.

"Paid to the Vicar and Priests for their stipends, 40^s; to the Dean of Stratton, 15^s 2^d; to the Lord Prior, 68^s 2^d; to the Convent, 6^l 13^s 4^d; for wax bought, 6^s; incense, 6^d; wine bought by the year, 2^s 6^d; hay bought for the sheep in winter, 30^s Sum, 14^l 15^s 8^d."

A similar statement for the next year, 15 Edw. III, is extant, the only difference being some additional expenses in the care of the tithe sheep and lambs, which appear to have been kept distinct from the other sheep of the Priory.

"Additional expenses:—For red stone for marking the sheep, 3^d. For grease bought for the same, 2^s. For brimstone bought, 20^d. Given to a certain boy for keeping the lambs and gathering the fold (coadunant bercar) for 18 weeks, 1qr., 1 bushel of mixtillion, (mixtur). For his livery bought 2^s 7½^d. For his stipend 6^d. Given to the shepherd for his watch about the fold (fald), 12^d. For washing and shearing all the sheep, 10^d. For milk for the lambs bought, 4^s. For hay bought for the coming year, 57^s. Paid for two synods, 3^s.

After the great pestilence of 1348, the stipends of the clergy rapidly rose, and a chaplain could hardly be found to undertake a Church under 10 marks, or £10 per annum. At Christmas, 1357, therefore, the allowance to the Vicar of this Church, fixed in the previous century, was commuted to a money payment, while that to the Chaplain of Stratton remained unaltered until the next year.

"Account of Brother Robert de Islep, of the Vicarage of Burcester, from Michas. 1357, to Michas. 1358.

"Moneys received for marriages, purifications, and burials. [Much defaced.]

"Tithes of merchants and artificers, 16^s 2^d. Tithes of sheep, lambs, calves, and fowls, (pullorum) 9^s 3^d. Sale of store. Issues of the Parsonage. Sum of the whole receipt, 14^l 22^d.

"Expenses:—3 lb. of wax, 21^d. Wine, 5^d. To the Lord Vicar for his stipend from Michaelmas to St. Thomas the Apostle, before the Agreement made, 10^s. Given to the barber by command of the Lord Prior, 6^d. Paid to the Vicar of Burecestre after the Agreement in the name of his stipend, 11^l 6^s 8^d. To the Dean of Stratton for the

¹ These accounts show

	Churchings.*	Marriages.*	Burials.
Bicester	27	12	39
Stratton	6	4	16
Launton.....			7

* Celebrated in the church of the village.

It is evident that in the figures relating to the town others besides residents are included (two from Blackthorn are especially mentioned). The number of burials testify to the excessive mor-

talities of those times, especially among young boys.

The offerings vary much in amount: At churchings from ½^d. (a poor woman's) to 5½^d.; at marriages from 1s. 3d. to 2s.; at funerals ¾^d. (a poor child's) to 2s. 7d.

Burial offerings amounting to 2s. and upwards betoken a donor of considerable position; those from 1s. to 2s. the rank of farmer and tradesmen; those from 6d. to 1s. that of smaller tradesmen and artisans.

"20^d. Ale for a chaplain occupying the office of the Dean of Stratton in the week of
 "the Lord's Nativity, 3^d. Sum of expenses and of moneys delivered, 13^l 18^s 6^d. . .
 "And he owes 3^s 3^¼^d. Account of live stock.

"Similar account from Mich. 1360, to Mich. 1361, by the same accountant. [Defaced.]

"Account of Robert Islep of the Vicarage of Burcester, from the feast of Saint Michael,
 "A.D. 1361, to the same feast, A.D. 1362.

"Arrears, 8^l 3^s 7^d. Oblations. October. The accountant answer for 9^s 3^d of obla-
 "tions for burials.¹

"November. And for 12^d of oblations of devotion in the feast of All Saints. And
 ". . . oblations for marriages. And for 22^d of oblations for purifications. And of 18^d
 "of oblations for burials which appear by the parcels. Sum.... 10^s 10^d.

Similar entries follow for each month of the year.

"Farm of anniversaries, 8^s. Of wax forthcoming with the bodies of the dead nothing
 "here, because the whole [is] in the account of the year preceding.

"Small tithes:—Colts, calves, lambs, linen, canvas, cheese, eggs, and merchandise.
 "Sum.... 25^s 5^d.

"Sales of Stock, wool, and fleeces—(the stock being pigs and lambs)—8^l 21^d. Total of
 "receipts, 22^l 19^s 4^d.

"Expenses:—Paid to the Archdeacon of Oxford for procur[ations] of the church, 7^s 7^¾^d.
 "And paid for synodals, 3^s.

"Expenses of the church:—For incense bought, 4^d. 1 lb. wax for candles blessed on
 "the day of the Purification of the Blessed Mary, 8^d. and no more, because in stock. For
 "washing vestments and surplices, 4^d. Fee of the Bishop of Damascus blessing the high altar,
 "3^s 4^d. Sum.... 4^s 8^d.

"Small expenses, for maintaining sheep in the winter, collecting tithe milk, &c., 18^s 5^d.

"Salaries:—Paid to the Vicar for himself and his chaplain and the clerk by the year,
 "by agreement, 11^l 6^s 8^d. And to the Dean of the church of Stratton by the year, 20^s.

"Foreign (expenses):—Paid to Master William Axeby, procurator general of the Arch-
 "deaconry of Oxford in the general council of Donstable, 10^d. . . .

"Sum of all expenses, 14^l 14^d ²/₃. And so he owes 8^l 18^s 1^d ¹/₄.

"Account of Robert de Islep of the Vicarage of Burcester from Michas. 1362, to Michas. 1363.
 (Similar to preceding accounts.) Sum of the whole receipt, 24^l 7^s 5^¼^d.

"Expenses:—Procurations and synodals. Incense, 3^d. For a man mending the glass
 "windows, 10^s. Tin bought at the same time, 10^d. 1^½ lb. of wax bought for a candle
 "blessed in Burcestre and Stratton, 12^d. (Other expenses as before.) Delivered to the Lord
 "Prior for mending the robes of John Sylam (?) and Thomas Pry . . . 10^s. To the
 "same for paying an amercement to the Bishop of Lincoln at the suit of the Abbot of
 "Oseneye, 6^s 8^d. To the same at the Assize holden at Oxford, 20^s. To the same in
 "divers gifts to be given to divers men of the Bishop of Lincoln, 6^s 8^d. Sum of the
 "expenses, £17 15^¾^d. Account of live stock."

¹ Professor Rogers, in his History of Agriculture, has mistaken this for a single burial fee.

After the lapse of a century in 1454 the money payment to the Vicar was exchanged for the small tithes of the parish, and the offerings in the church, while at the same time the chapel at Stratton was made an independent cure.

"Edmund, Prior of the Priory of St. Edburg, of Burcestre, and the convent of the same place, proprietors of the Parish Church of St. Edburg, of Burcestre aforesaid, and of the Chapel of the blessed Virgins, Mary and Edburg, of Stratton Audley, a dependant of the same, &c., and John Odam, priest, perpetual Vicar of the said Parish Church, &c. We the Prior and Convent, the proprietors named, will and grant, for ourselves and our successors, by the presents, that the said lord John Odam, the perpetual Vicar aforesaid, and his successors, shall in future for ever have and receive by right and in the name of a portion of their vicarage aforesaid, and for the same, the manse of their vicarage, with the gardens and places adjoining the same, and customary, and the tithes of gardens and of hemp and flax growing in the gardens of the said parish; and also all and every kind of tithes, offerings, oblations, mortuaries, altar gifts, commodities, profits, and emoluments whatsoever, present and to come, in the villages and fields of Burcestre, Wrechwyke, and Bygenhull, and in other tithable lands and places situated within the boundaries, limits, or tithable places of the said parish Church of St. Edburg, howsoever arising or in future likely to arise, and belonging, or appertaining to, or hereafter to belong to, the same parish Church, fully, freely, and entirely without impediment from us and our successors; there being altogether excepted and reserved to us, the Prior and Convent, and our successors, every kind of tithe of corn and hay from the tithable places of the same parish howsoever arising; there being also excepted and reserved to us all kinds of tithe of all enclosures, not gardens, of the said parish, which shall now and in future be in our hands, without fraud. If however enclosures of this kind be in the hand of tenants or farmers, or be occupied by the animals of the same, then we will and grant that the aforesaid Vicar, and his successors, shall receive and have the tithes of lambs, wool, milk, cheese, butter, calves, and the personal tithes, the great tithes of the same places of the same places being entirely reserved for us and our successors; there being also excepted for us and our successors every kind of tithes, oblations, offerings, and profits whatsoever in the village of Stratton Audley. We also will and grant that the said Vicar may have yearly two carts of good hay, to be carted at the charge and expense of the Prior and Convent to the manse of the said vicarage at a convenient time, as has up to this time been generally done; and 4 carts of firewood from the Prior's wood, called "Prior's-wood" at Arnecote, to be cut down and carted at the expense of the said Vicar at the Prior's or his deputy's suitable and reasonable appointment to be made at the first request of the said Vicar or his attorney. Also, we the aforesaid proprietors will and grant that the burden of maintaining one Chaplain in the Chapel of Stratton aforesaid, according to the tenor of an agreement made therein to celebrate and minister sacred things to the parishioners there, by the consent, will, and assent of me, John, the Vicar aforesaid, and also by the consent, will, and authority, and assent of the Reverend Father in Christ, Lord John, by the grace of God Bishop of Lincoln, Diocesan of the place, should belong and appertain to us and our successors; and not only the aforesaid burden but other burdens whatsoever incumbent on the said Chapel or the aforesaid Church of Burcestre, and in

"any way appertaining to or wont to appertain to the Vicar of the said Church, the burdens of repairing the vicarage manse, and the providing of the said Vicar's eatables and drinkables alone excepted. And in testimony and proof of these things all and each, we the Prior and Convent, the proprietors aforesaid, have set our common seal to one part of these Indentures, containing within them our agreement of this kind, and remaining with the said Vicar; and I, John, the Vicar aforesaid, have placed my seal to the other part of these Indentures, and in further proof and testimony of the premises, I have procured the seal of the Venerable the Official of the Lord Archdeacon of Oxford, to be affixed to the same part. Given in the Chapter House of the Priory of Burcestre aforesaid, on the xiith day of January, in the MCCCCLIVth year of the Lord, and the XXXIIIrd year of the reign of King Henry the VIth after the Conquest of England."¹

It is probable that about this time the oldest part of the present Vicarage House, forming then a hall, with chamber above it and a kitchen, was built, during John Odam's long incumbency of 45 years.

The exact value of the Vicarage, just before the dissolution of the Priory, is given in Henry VIIIth Valor Eccles., in 1535.

"BURCESTRE.

"Peter Griffyth is the Perpetual Vicar there, and his Vicarage is worth yearly with reprisals in common years by his own recognizance on his oath xvj^s., -s., -d.

"The Prior and Convent there are appropriators of the same } It appears in the Priory
"and in the aforesaid Priory they are charged for the same } aforesaid.

"Total..... £xvi ,, — ,, —

"And it remains clear.

"Allocations nothing.

"Tenths for the lord the king — ,, xxxij ,, —

After the dissolution of the Priory the allowance for bread and wine, hitherto supplied by the Monastery for use in the Parish Church, was continued by a payment of 30s. per annum to the Vicar out of the revenues of the County of Oxon. A century later this payment was in arrear.² In 1649 it was charged on the property which had belonged to Eynesham Abbey,³ but has in recent times been lost.

Soon after Sir M. Blount possessed the impropriate rectory estate, he, with his eldest son, Sir Richard, advanced a claim to the small tithes of the Vicarage, and directed his tenants to withhold them. The newly-appointed vicar, Mr. Bird, hereupon commenced a suit in Chancery, and obtained a decree of the Court,⁴ dated May 4th, 1608, which directed the fulfillment of the agreement made in 1454; the payment of all arrears; of £20 per annum in lieu of the tithes of land lately enclosed, and the possession of the Dovehouse Close and of the doves breeding in the dovehouse, and of a little pigtle or pig-walk adjoining this close, as a compensation to him during his lifetime.

¹ See Kennett's Par. Ant.

² Extract from the Books of the Exchequer, certified by Sir Edmund Sawyer, that there was due to John Bird, Vicar of the parish of Bicester, Co. Oxon, £12 for his pension of 30s. per annum, due for the last seven years. Feb. 20, 1634—5.

(Calendar of State Papers Domestic, p. 520).

³ Fee Farm Rolls, Rot. 6. No. 9.

⁴ A copy of this decree is given in full in Kennett's P. A., Anno. MCCCXIII (New Ed.)

In 1649, in pursuance of various ordinances of the Parliament, a complete survey of all ecclesiastical benefices was made by specially appointed Commissioners; and subsequently orders were issued for the augmentation of the stipends of such ministers as were thought insufficient.

"Oliver Cromwell, Protector.²

"Ordered—That the yearly sume of 15[£] before the s^d sume is hereby granted unto "the minister of Bissiter in the County of Oxon, to and for the increase of his maintenance, "his Highnesses Councill having approved thereof the 20th of January, 1656, and that the "said sume be from time to time p^d unto Mr. William Hall, minister of Bissiter aforesaid, "approv'd by the Commissioners chosen for the appointment of public preachers the 20th day "of June, 1654, to hold for such time as he shall discharge the duty of the minister of the "s^d place, or untill further orders of those trustees. To be accompted from the 20th of "January aforesaid, and that Mr. Lawrence Steele, Treasur^r doe pay the same unto him "accordingly.

"Signed Ra. Hall, Ri. Young, Edw. Cressett, Ja. Thorowgood, and John Pocock."

"By virtue of an order of both houses of pliamt of the second of May last It is "ordered that the yearlie some of 50^{li} be pd. out of the proffits of the impropriate Rectorie "of Bissiter in the Countie of Oxon, sequestred from Sir Charles Blunt, papist and delin- "quent, sithence deceased, to and for increase of the maintenance of such minister as shal "be noiated to officiate the cure of the pish Church of Bissiter aforesaid, the Vicarage whereof "is worth but 40^{li} per ann And the sequestrators of the premises are required to pay the "same accordinglie at such times & seasons of the yeare as the sd proffits shall growe due "and payable."³

In Queen Anne's reign this was included among the vicarages discharged from the payment of first fruits and tenths in consequence of their small value.

"Clear yearly value } "Burcester, V. vulgo Bister, St. Edburgh, Pri. Burcester, Propr. Sir
49[£] „ 00^s „ 00^d. } "Edward Turner, Bart., yearly tenths 01[£] „ 12^s „ 00^d.

During Mr. Airson's incumbency the former claim to the endowments of the Vicarage was revived by Sir Stephen Glynne, the Patron. Mr. Airson then consulted Sergeant Weldon on the case, and it was subsequently laid before Sir Matthew Skinner, who in an opinion dated April 19, 1729, recapitulates the substance of the decree of the Court of Chancery made in 1608, and adds "The dues settled by that decree can be recovered by a writ "served on the several tenants." Sir S. Glynne then relinquished the prosecution of his claim.

At the enclosure of Market End field, in 1757, a small allotment of land was assigned to the vicarage in lieu of the small tithes payable from it. The vicarage was then returned as worth £120 per annum. At the enclosure of King's End field in 1794 another allotment of land was made for the same purpose. Thus the glebe land now consists of 125 acres. This, with the other dues belonging to the vicarage, makes its present gross value to be about £320 per annum.

¹ Lansdowne M.S., No. 989, Art. 48, f. 177, in British Museum.

² From "The minutes of the Proceedings of the Committee for

plundered Ministers," among the M.S. in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. (M.S. 323, p. 236 b.)

THE PRIORY OF ST. EDBURG.

The passion for monastic life revived, and became very strong in England in the XIIth and XIIIth centuries, Gilbert Bassett, the second of this name, stirred by the spirit of the age, determined to establish in his native place, no doubt for the benefit of his dependants, a home for twelve men, who should share a common life according to the rules of St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo.¹ He therefore made over for this purpose his house and park,² and in 1182 added a gift of land and other endowments by the following deed:—

[Translation.]

“To all the faithful of our holy Mother Church present and to come Gilbert Bassett sendeth greeting. Be it known unto you all that I have given and granted to John, Prior of Berncestre, and to the Canons serving God there, for the welfare of the body and soul of my lord King Henry, and for the welfare of my own body and soul, and of the bodies and souls of Egeline, my wife, and of my children, and for the souls of my predecessors and successors, the Church of Berncestre with all its appurtenances; And in addition thereto all the land, which is between the croft³ of Gilbert the miller, and the messuage which was Adam’s, and that messuage itself, as far as my park road, together with V acres, which the aforesaid Adam held, and the messuage, which was Osmond Flavel’s, with the croft; and William the waggoner’s messuage; and Alward’s messuage with the croft, in which the two aforesaid messuages were; And also every tenth load of my wood, that, as it comes from the wood, it may be drawn into the Canon’s Court as into my own; And a certain little meadow which is called Hamma, which reaches from the croft of Seric de Wrechwic by the mill-dam as far as where the new brook runs into the old one, and the mill-dam itself, to erect a mill, where there was one formerly, or in any other place near the mill-dam if it can be erected there; Also pasturage in my demesne pasture for 3 teams of draught oxen, together with my draught oxen; And for 400 sheep the pasturage belonging to the Church, both in my demesne and in the common pasture; And freedom from pannage; and that their tenants be free and quit from all service, which belongs to me; Further, the Church of Ardinton with its appurtenances; the Church of Comtom with its appurtenances; the Church of

¹ “The order of regular Canons of St. Augustine was brought into England by Adelwald, confessor to Henry I, who first created a priory of his order, at Nostel, in Yorkshire, and had influence enough to have the Church of Carlisle converted into an episcopal See, and given to regular Canons, invested with the privilege of choosing their Bishop. This order was singularly favoured and protected by Henry I, who gave them in A.D. 1107, the Priory of Dunstable, and by Queen Maud who erected for them the Priory of the Holy Trinity, in London — They increased so prodigiously that besides the noble Priory of Merton, which was founded for them in 1117, by Gilbert, an earl of Norman blood, they had under the reign of Edward I, 53 priories, as appears by the catalogue presented to that Prince,

“when he obliged all the monasteries to receive his protection, “and to acknowledge his jurisdiction.” (Mosheim’s Eccles. His., Book iii, Part ii, Chap. iii, § 29, Note).

According to Tanner they had 174 houses in England, 158 for monks, and 16 for nuns, but the editors of the last edition of the “Monasticon” have recovered the names of additional small houses, which make up a total of 216 houses of the order.

² One of Bryan Twyne’s M.S.S. at Christ Church, College, Oxford, enters the foundation of this Priory thus “Com. Oxon. Cœnob. Prioratus Edburgæ Burcestrice pro canonicis XI per Gilbertum Basset et—“Courteney uxorem.” Dugdale’s Mon., Vol. vi., p. 432).

³ A small enclosure near a dwelling house.

"Missenden with its appurtenances; For a perpetual alms,¹ free and quit from all secular service and exaction in the meadows and pastures, in the marshes, in the mills, in the ways and paths, and in all places, as well and as freely as any person ever held them. And I, Gilbert Bassett, will warrant the aforesaid Churches, and the aforesaid possessions to the aforesaid Canons from all secular service; and the aforesaid Canons are bound not to give or exchange for another Church or other possessions the aforesaid Churches and possessions, nor to farm let them. These being witnesses Robert de Witefield, then vicar, Thomas de Durevall, Egiline my wife, Aliz Bassett, Henry de Curtinas, Robert de Amalri, Hugh Durevall, Thomas Bassett, Fulke Bassett, James de Gerardmulin, Waleran de Chrichlade, Robert le Waleis, Bartholomew Capellane, Robert, Ralph's son, William de Covele, William Richard's son, Warin Pincerna, Hasculf de Bixa, Thomas Briton, Adam Clerk, Richard Clerk de Calverton, and many others."

The seal affixed to this Charter is of green wax, bearing the rude effigies of a knight on horseback with his sword drawn, with the inscription "✠ Sigillum Gilberti Bassett." (Given in Kennett's P.A., Anno. MCLXXXII).

PRIORY BUILDINGS.

The land thus assigned was a valuable gift. It was good ground, already under cultivation, and near a stream, consisting of various inclosures contiguous to the village.³ The usual conventual buildings were soon erected upon it according to the plan, which, with slight variations, was adopted by nearly all the monastic orders, except the Carthusians,⁴

THE CLOSE.

A stone-arched⁵ gateway (described as "adjoining the Churchyard," and as "The Upper Gate towards the town,") was the principal entrance." This led into a close of greensward, where were two fishponds,⁶ and an orchard. On its left was the Gatehouse, in which the Porter resided, and on its right "The Prior's Stable,"⁷ both facing S. The W. side of the Close was occupied by "The Grange," (described from its position as "The Upper Grange,") which consisted of two barns (a large one with a porch and a smaller one) and some outbuildings for cattle. A gate opened from the Grange into a lane leading into Bigenhulle village,⁸ and was called "The Country," or "Grange Gate." On the E. side of the close stood the principal building, the Conventual Church.

¹ Lands given in free alms (*libera elemosyna*) were held on condition of saying masses for the souls of the donor and his relations, and were exempt from all other services, except the "*trinoda necessitas*" of repairing highways, building castles, and repelling invasions. They could not be given without the consent of the lord paramount, who thereby lost the services due from them.

² "There is a popular idea that the monks chose out the most beautiful and fertile spots in the kingdom for their abodes. A little reflection would show that the choice of the site of a new monastery must be confined within the limits of the lands, which the founder was pleased to bestow." (*Scenes and Characters in the Middle Ages*, by Rev. L. Cutts, 1872.)

³ The Benedictine orders preferred sites as remote from towns and villages as possible. The Augustinian orders did not seek

such strict seclusion.

⁴ Among them each monk had his separate cell, in which he lived, took meals, and slept, apart from the rest, the whole community meeting only in church and chapter.

⁵ "There is a report that a large arch was standing close to the present farm house itself, some years past, and that the farm house itself occupies the site of the ancient lodge. (*Dunkin's His.*, p. 83.)

⁶ "The large pond in Place Yard was doubtless originally designed for supplying the monastery with fish. Near the entrance of the garden is a smaller water, perhaps once a stew." (*Ibid.*)

⁷ Where somefold stables still stand.

⁸ Part of this remains, now leading from the schools into the Oxford Road.

CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ST. EDBURG.

This Church had been built before the year 1201,¹ and like all monastery Churches was cruciform. It was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and St. Edburg,² the Patron Saint of the Parish Church, and of the Convent. Besides its chief altar, dedicated to St. Mary, two others were erected, one to St. Nicholas, (in the transept or aisle, consequently called "St. Nicholas' Aisle,")³ and the other to St. John the Baptist. A lamp to burn before the altar of St. Nicholas was given in 1214 by Richard de Camville and his wife, and a similar gift for the altar of St. John was made in 1244 by Philippa Bassett.

This church was of considerable size, but a century after its erection it was greatly enlarged. Towards effecting this enlargement a loan of £200 was raised, in the year 1300,⁴ and five years later an Indulgence was obtained from the Bishop of the diocese, John d'Alredy.

"The 7th of the Kalends of August, in the 5th year, &c., the Bishop granted an Indulgence of 20 days to all persons, who, of the goods bestowed on them by God, freely give the aids of charity towards the fabric and maintenance of the Conventual Church of Burncestre."

The work done at this time was so extensive that by it this church became larger than the Parish Church, (it is constantly described as "the larger church of St. Mary and St. Edburg") and a reconsecration was deemed necessary. The latter was performed in 1312 by one of the Irish Bishops, who at that time frequently acted as suffragans to the Bishops of England, when a second Indulgence was granted.

"The 6th of the Kalends of October at Bannebury, the Bishop ratified an Indulgence granted by Brother Gilbert, Bishop of Annadown,⁵ to all persons truly penitent, and who have confessed, who went to the Conventual Church of Burncestre, in the diocese of Lincoln, dedicated by the said Father, on the day of the dedication of the same, for the purpose of devotion, or of offering an oblation, and who visited the 3 altars in honour of the Holy Cross, of the glorious assumption of the Virgin, and of St. Lawrence, Martyr, consecrated in the same church by the same Father."

The reason of this enlargement is not far to seek, for it will be remembered that our mediæval Churches were not merely places where a congregation could worship, but they were also the sites of an aggregation of side chapels and subsidiary altars, at which various

¹ See Gilbert Basset's bequest of land at Kirtlington in that year.

² Besides this Priory, the Abbeys of Evesham, Worcestershire, of Eynsham, Oxon, and of Barking, Essex, and several others were dedicated to S. Mary and S. Edburg. (Kennett's P.A., Anno MCLXXXII.)

³ Aisle or Aile means the wing of a building (French aile, Ital. ala). In old, especially mediæval, writers, the word is constantly used to denote what is now universally termed transept.

⁴ "The Priory and Convent of Berencestre have demised to Galvan Beke, of Florence, and Stephen his cousin germane, the Prebendal Church of Sotton with the Chapel of Bokyngham, and their manors, in the year of the Lord 1300, on the feast of St. Hilary, &c., for the term of two years for a payment of £200

"sterling." (M.S. in Bodleian Library, given in Mon. Ang.)

The persons here mentioned were Italian money lenders, whose agents probably resided in London. Those Italian establishments at length supplanted the Jews as money-lenders, and were the origin of the banks in Lombard Street.

Kennett has strangely misunderstood this loan supposing it to be a lease of the estate named to Aulney Abbey, in Normandy.

⁵ A fratre Gilberto Enachdunensis Epis^o. This is the adjective form of Enachdun or Annadown, a small Irish bishopric, the cathedral city of which was about 4 miles from Tuam. Gilbert the Bishop of this place, was Suffragan of Winchester in 1313, and also of Worcester in the same year. (Stubbs' Regist. Sac.)

offices for the dead or living might be separately and simultaneously celebrated. The erection of the three additional altars¹ mentioned was evidently a chief feature in the new church.

A few years later there is mention of St. Catherine,² then the most popular of female Saints next to St. Mary Magdalene, and it is probable that an altar, with a light before it, dedicated to her was now substituted for that of St. John the Baptist, after a chapel, dedicated to the latter, had been built at the village hospital.

The East window of this church was strikingly graceful, consisting of 5 lights (Early English) similar to that still to be seen in the Priory Church of Chetwode in this neighbourhood.³ A tower (probably central) contained 3,⁴ and in later years 4, bells.

At the end of the XIVth century, in 1396, the Choir or Chancel was enlarged,⁵ the new part being furnished with a wooden floor.⁶

In 1412 a new roof, decorated with much colour and gilding, was placed over the High Altar, and in 1433 a frontal for this altar of needlework in gold was presented by Lady L'Estrange, the wife of the Patron.

The chief ornaments and furniture of this Church were "The Picture, or Image (tabula) of the Saviour," standing out from some part of the wall surface; "the Image of the blessed Mary at the great altar" (in 1320); "the Image and Shrine of S. Edburg." The latter was a wooden chest, within which the relics of the Patron Saint and others were preserved, generally resting on a stone base to resemble an altar tomb, but occasionally carried in processions.⁷

Close to the Church, probably attached to its S. transept, was the Sacristy, the residence of the Sacristan or Sexton, with a small garden attached to it.

THE CEMETERY.

The ground on two sides of the church was set apart as the Convent burial ground. The outer wall of the convent premises formed its North and East boundary, and a fish-pond on the S. side separated it from the Prior's garden. Ash trees, some of large growth,

¹ That to St. Lawrence was introduced, probably because he was the Patron Saint of Caversfield, where the monks then possessed an estate.

² See the will of H. St. Edwards, which follows. St. Catherine is there mentioned in connection with St. Nicholas. The two clerks of the church were also called after these names, and there is no further mention of St. John the Baptist.

³ "I directed the labourers to proceed with a new trench near the brook, and our astonishment was extreme when we immediately fell upon foundations much larger than any we had hitherto seen; these I determined to follow, and found them E and W, and extending to an unknown length in every direction.—By the side of one of these walls lay the greater part of a human skeleton.—In this spot we also discovered considerable quantities of broken painted glass." (Letter on discoveries, &c. of the Priory, 1819, in Dunkin's History of Hundreds of Bullington and Ploughley, vol II, appendix VI.)

The remains of this window were found in the brook adjoining,

in 1819.

⁴ In the Sacristan's accounts of 1408 there is mention of "the middle bell.

⁵ "John Stacy for finishing one end of it 20^d; for varnishing "the tables" (the cornice) "underneath the cresting" (the ornamental finishing which surmounted the wall, probably open carved work) "of the new choir 20^d.; for repairing the jewels of the "choir 6^d., &c." (Priory Accounts.)

⁶ The floor of this church was earthen, for at this time four men were employed for six-and-a-half days "to repair and beautify the "old choir, and level the ground, and the lumps there," for which they received 2s.

Encaustic tiles were in general use from 1250 to 1550, but no trace of these has been found in this Church. Wood, being abundant in this district, was substituted for them.

⁷ The Latin word is "Feretrum," which is properly a bier, on which the body is carried, but which is also applied to portable shrines.

shaded this secluded spot, and the continual cooing of the pigeons,¹ which built their nests under the eaves, and in the belfry, of the Church, added a strange solemnity to it. Here were laid from time to time not only various generations of Priors, Monks, and inmates of the Convent, but many others, who by special benefactions obtained a license for burial within its walls, among whom were Egeline de Courteney, the widow of the founder, Philippa Basset, Countess of Warwick, several members of the De Amory family, lords of Bukenhull, and some of the lords of Bercester Manor.²

THE CLOISTER.

A paved road led across the close from the entrance gateway to the Cloister,³ which was a covered ambulatory between the Church and the various apartments of the monastery. Within the Cloister, near the door of the Church, was the entrance to the Chapter House, where all meetings on the business of the Convent were held; and the Lavatory, a long stone trough, where the monks performed their sparse ablutions, and underwent periodical shaving at the hands of the barber.

The various apartments occupied by the inmates of the Priory were situated in the lowest and warmest parts of the inclosure, forming a square called "The Court."

THE PRIOR'S LODGING.

The Prior had a residence of his own, detached from the cells of the monks, on the N.E. side of the Court.⁴ It consisted of a room on the ground floor called "The Prior's Hall," and of a chamber above it called "The Prior's Upper Chamber." A second chamber was added in 1327, in which a small stone altar was placed.⁵ A small piece of ground adjoining was laid out as a garden for the Prior's sole use.

THE CHAMBER.

On one side of the Court adjoining the Prior's lodging, probably the N, with its windows opening Southwards, was The Chamber or Locutory. It was raised above the

¹ The sale of these form an occasional item in the Bursar's Accounts.

² "Eglean Courtenay was buried in the Priorie of Burcester. There were divers of the D'amories, auncient gentlemen, buried in the Priorie of Burcester. There was also one of the last lords le Strange buried." Leland's Itiny. vol. vii. p. 413.

Dugdale says of Philippa Basset, Countess of Warwick, "Where she died I do not find, but at Berencester she lyeth buried, in the monastery there of her father's foundation."

Mr. Vincent, in his correction of Mr. Brooke's 'Nobilitie,' page 370 or 570, says that Thomas, Lord Basset, of Hedington, Oxon, was founder of the Priory of Bisseter, upon which account Philippa his daughter, 2nd wife of Henry, Earl of Warwick, was a benefactress; and by her will ordered her bones to be laid in the said Priory, &c., &c. Agreeable to this are Sir William Dugdale's words, in his 'Antiquities of Warwickshire.' Rawlinson MSS. in Bodleian Library.

Leland and Camden give the correct account of the founder.

³ "On the right of the entrance into the upper garden we found two double capitols of columns, and also a pitched road,

"with walls on either side, leading towards the principal buildings: these are about 18 or 20 inches below the surface of the present Eastern wall of the garden, and runs along the middle of the chief edifices. The foundations plainly indicate that the Priory originally formed three sides of a quadrangle. The walls within the present enclosure are about 3 or 3½ feet in thickness; and from the circumstance of a thinner wall standing parallel with them, may have had a cloister in that side." (Letter on Discoveries, &c.)

⁴ This position is known from the mention of the pond dividing the Cemetery from the Prior's Garden.

⁵ There is mention of the rebuilding of this chamber in the Bursar's accounts later.

A.D. 1397. "A new chamber was built by contract with John Fige, carpenter, between the hall and the Prior's upper chamber, at an expense of 25s. 8d., besides the tiling, for which John Bynsheye was paid 5s. 8d., besides a penny earnest. And 16d. was also paid to a workman to make a stone border in the chimney in the Prior's hall, and in his chamber."

level of the ground, the floor resting on the vaulted roof of the cellar beneath, and was reached by a small winding stone stair-case. A row of stone columns, supporting a groined roof ran down its centre. There was probably, as in all such rooms, a dais at its upper end, and a screen at the lower. The furniture was simple and scanty. The paved or tiled floor was strewn with rushes. Trestles and boards, to form moveable tables, and stools or forms, with one or more large chairs perhaps, stood against the walls, or were arranged round the charcoal fireplace in the centre, while a small pulpit, or lectern, from which a homily or book was occasionally read, occupied a corner of the dais. Here the monks took their meals, and met for conversation.

THE KITCHEN AND OFFICES.

Adjoining the Chamber was The Kitchen,¹ near which was The Well.² Next to the Kitchen was The Slaughter House;³ beyond this The Bakehouse; next to this The Oil or Oyling House,⁴ called also The Wax House; then The Brew or Malt House; then The Laundry. These, with the servants' apartments, probably formed the W and S⁵ sides of the Court.

THE DORMITORY.

On another, probably the East side, adjoining the Prior's lodging, was The Dormitory. When this was rebuilt in 1424, it formed a long upper room, with an open timber roof, resting on 18 corbel head stones, and surmounted by a weather cock at each end.⁶

¹ The mention of "the wall between the Chamber and the kitchen" proves its position.

"On Wednesday the 6th instant, (October 1819) I proceeded to open a deep trench parallel with the brook, immediately under the garden wall in Palace Yard. The labourers had not proceeded far, before they met with great blocks of freestone carved with receded mouldings of elegant pattern and excellent workmanship, scattered in profusion amidst masses of rubbish, three or four feet in depth. The solidity of this mass rendered it difficult, to distinguish the walls from other parts, and, I am sorry to say, we unfortunately dropped upon the chimney of the Conventual kitchen, and actually destroyed a considerable portion, before the cinders and ashes convinced us we had discovered the site of the Priory. Continuing in the same line we found a wall four feet in thickness; and at about 25 or 27 feet distance another, parallel therewith; both were plastered inside, and the intermediate space filled with fragments of pillars, capitals, arches, keystones, banded pilasters, and other carved work, intermixed with rubbish; evidently thrown down in the hasty demolition of the fabric. The lower parts of the windows still remained, and in the angles stood the bases of lofty and slender pillars, whose fragments were strewn about the ruins, &c. I had the walls uncovered to the extremity of the building, which I found supported and terminated by strong buttresses." (Letter on Discoveries, &c.)

² "Near the centre of the upper garden a circular well was discovered, about a yard in diameter, and walled with freestone. The freestone walls are now taken away, and in June 1814 it appeared an unsightly hollow full of muddy water. (Dunkin's History of Bicester, p. 82.)

"The present Eastern wall (of the garden) runs along the middle of the chief edifices. (Letter on Discoveries, &c.)

³ "To two masons mending the slaughterhouse next the kitchen as well in carpentry as in stonework, 2s. 9d. To the tiler over the said house two days, 4d. (Bursar's accounts.)

⁴ The position of the "Oil House next the Bakehouse" is mentioned.

⁵ They "found many earthen floors in the upper garden under the S wall." (Dunkin's History, p. 82.)

⁶ A. D. 1425. The Prior expends 20, 0, 20 in the purchase carriage and preparation of materials to rebuild the Dormitory of the Convent. The timber is brought from the Breche, Gravenhull, Bernwood, Brackley, Wyssel park, Syresham, Whittlewood, &c.; the stones from the quarry beyond Crockwell; 7000 shingles are bought at Tame at 53s. 4d.; 3000 common tiles at Crowton for 10s.; and four cart loads of osiers bought from Stoke wood, for scaffold hurdles; and in aid of the same undertaking, the monks receive a benefaction of 20s. from Lady Elizabeth de Clinton, and several trees of their own selection in Middleton Park, the gift of Lord le Strange, their patron.

A. D. 1425. Costs of the dormitory-house. "To W. Skern, with his companions, hired by the great to dig walling stones at a quarry beyond Crockwell, &c., 23s. 4d.; and to sundry men hired at two different times to break stones in the priory for making lime, &c., 14d.; and in payment to John Chepyn, quarryman, for fitting and making 18 corbelstones to be placed in the aforesaid wall, 5s. 4d.; and to John Coventre of Banbury, slater, for undertaking by the great to cover the aforesaid house, £4 0s. 1d.; and in iron pipes, weighing 28lbs., with two weathercocks, viz., tin vanes (vans de tyn) bought of the smith of Cherlton, to be placed over each end of the aforesaid dormitory, 5s. 2d.; and in sundry men hired to pull down, and draw away the old timber, rubbish and stones, 10d. Total £34 17s. 4½d." (Bursar's Accounts.)

Here the pallets, in which the monks slept, were arranged in rows on each side against the walls. A turret, called the Clock Chamber, held a striking clock. The lower story of this building was probably divided into the cells or chambers, which the monks occupied in the day time, one of these being used as "The Bursary" or "Treasure House."

THE INFIRMARY.

Detached, but not far from these buildings,¹ stood The Sick House, or Infirmary with a small garden attached. This was called in latter times "The Trimles" or "The Trymenell,"² and in 1453 was assigned as the residence of the retiring Prior.

THE HOSPICE.

Another detached building within the Convent walls was The Hospice, or Guest House. It consisted of a hall below, and chambers above, and had a separate gateway leading to it. This house, where the monks generally dispensed their hospitality, often presented a strange contrast to the rest of the monastery. To it came persons of all sorts and degrees, nobles and their ladies, knights and their dames, Bishops and other Church dignitaries with their officials and servants, travelling Friars, traders with their wares, minstrels with their songs and juggling tricks, palmers, beggars and travellers, crowding its narrow precincts; while at a few paces distant the dark-frocked monks, with faces buried in their cowls, walked in silent meditation, or sat to eat their meagre meal.

This house, measuring 41-ft. long and 16½ broad, with its arched gateway-entrance, are the only parts of the old buildings still standing.

THE MILLS.

In order that the monks should have no occasion to leave the convent walls, it was necessary to have within its enclosure the means of providing the necessaries of life, a garden, a mill, a bakery, a granary, and such like. The neighbourhood of a stream, therefore, was of much importance. When headed up, it supplied water-power for a corn mill, and preserves for fish. There is mention in the founder's gift of "the croft of Gilbert the miller," who then occupied one of the mills mentioned in Domesday. This mill, outside the Convent walls, the monks probably gained possession of; or on the land adjoining it, which had been given to them, erected a new one.

In 1327 as the land in their occupation increased, they erected a Horse-Mill opposite to the Water-Mill, but within the Convent enclosure.³ A gateway was made to give access to this, and was called The Mill-gate.

¹ "In the garden called the Orchard, we found a neat little place walled with brick, and paved with 6-inch square tiles, ornamented with plain circles, and flowers of various kinds; the floor was about two feet below the surface of the ground." (Dunkin's History, p. 83.)

² A name derived from trimle, to tremble; or trimple, to walk unsteadily. In MS. Sloane 7, f. 76, there is a receipt for "the palsy that makyth man and woman to trymylle."

"The Sarazene that held the suerde in hande,

"Full fast he trymlyde fote and hande."

(Halliwell's Dictionary.)

³ "Some years ago another building stood within the wall on the right of the entrance (to the Hospice), and was then used as an outhouse. The windows were of similar workmanship with those that remain; the building has been since destroyed." (Dunkin's History, p. 82.)

In 1397 a Wind-mill was erected, at a cost of £20 14s. 1d.,¹ but the site of it is not defined.

ARCHITECTURE OF BUILDINGS.

The original buildings were fashioned in the style of architecture prevailing in the 13th century, the Early English or First-Pointed, of local stone, with dressings of Calne stone in the doors and windows, the roofs of the chief of them being covered with shingles or stone slates, and red tiles, and of others thatched with moss. The accompanying plan will show the relative position of the different buildings.

As soon as the Convent buildings were complete, the Manor House, which had been the first home of the monks, was deserted. It gradually fell into decay, and had become a ruin in 1409, for in that year leave was given to take freestone from its walls. The little park around it was given to the Convent in 1245, and being used for the pasturing of horses, was called the Horse-croft or enclosure.

THE PATRON.

The lords of the manor, as superior lords of the soil, were Patrons of this Priory. Their rights were chiefly exercised in claiming a heriot after the death of each Prior, and granting a license for the election of his successor.

THE INMATES.

The regular inmates of the Priory were (1) the Prior, (2) the Canons, or Brethren, (3) the Servants.

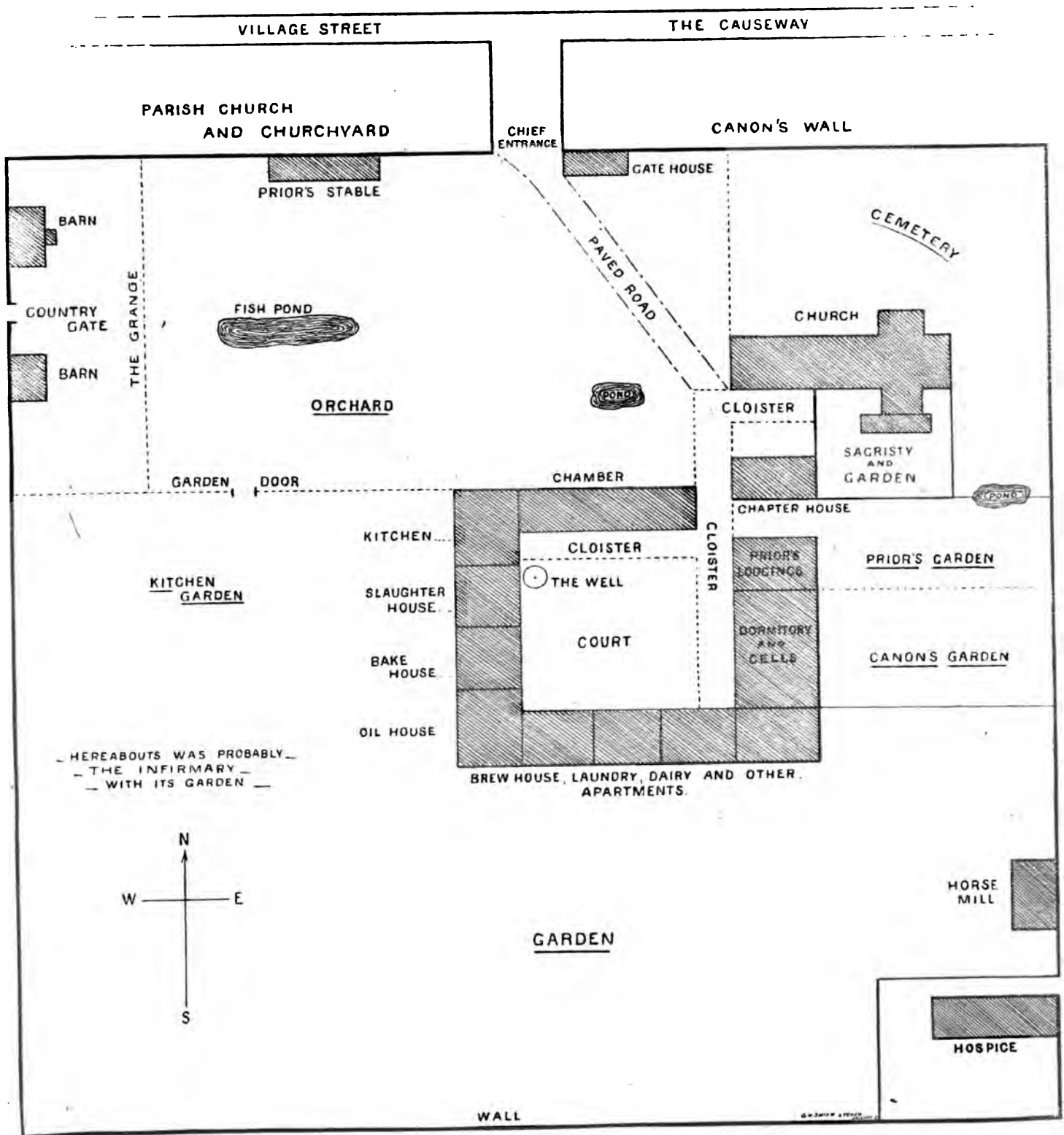
THE PRIOR.²

The mode of his election was as follows: A license having been first obtained from the Patron, the brethren met in Chapter, with a Notary Public or other law officer present to conduct the proceedings. As soon as they had made their election, it was duly recorded in writing. Application was then made to the Bishop of the Diocese, to issue a Commission to confirm the election. This Commission was generally entrusted to some beneficed clergy, who after going through the usual forms of hearing and answering objections, issued the mandate of Confirmation. The Rural Dean of Berncestre then made public proclamation of the newly-elected Prior in the Parish Church, after which his formal Installation followed immediately. Part of the latter ceremony consisted in the Prior's receiving the obeisance of the Brethren, and all dependants of the House; and then, as the form of induction into the temporalities, riding in procession through the Close and other parts of the precincts; the horse on which he rode on this occasion becoming the perquisite of the Archdeacon of Oxford, who generally received in lieu of it its worth in money, or, as in later times, a fixed fee. A Feast closed the proceedings, at which for the first time the new Prior took his place as Head of the House; and all the officials and other persons who had taken part in the election were hospitably entertained.

¹ The full particulars of the erection of this mill are given in the Bursar's accounts of the year named. See Dunkin's History of Bullingdon and Ploughley Hundreds, vol ii. appendix No. 3.

² The difference between an abbot and a prior was that the former usually held his charter of liberties and protection under the king, and the latter under the Bishop.

PLAN OF THE PRIORY.



The legal expenses connected with the election are given on two occasions in the Bursar's accounts:

	A.D. 1433.	TEMP. HEN. VI.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1.—License from Patron	0 6 8 ..	0 8 4
2.—The Official conducting the election	2 0 0 ..	0 13 4
3.—Notary Public writing and certifying the deed of election	2 8 4 ..	2 6 4
4.—Bishop of Lincoln, for a Commission	5 0 0 ..	5 0 0
5.—The Deed of Commission	2 0 0 ..	0 10 0
6.—Expenses in executing Commission	2 6 8 ..	2 13 4
7.—Rural Dean	0 1 0 ..	0 0 0
8.—Officials at the Confirmation; Archdeacon of Oxford, and others	3 6 8 ..	1 17 10
9.—Clerks and others	0 16 8 ..	0 11 4
10.—Travelling expenses to the Patron and Bishop	1 12 0 ..	1 4 3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	19 18 0	15 4 9
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The Prior was elected from the Brethren, with the single exception of the last, and had filled the other offices in the Convent, especially that of Sub-Prior, and had generally passed far beyond middle life before he attained the superior office. Both within and without the house the Prior was a high dignitary, and was treated with great deference. His authority over the affairs of the House was absolute, limited only by the necessity of consulting the brethren in chapter on important business. He had a seal of office,¹ a set of apartments, a clerk or chaplain, and servants appropriated to his separate use; also a riding horse; some license of diet; and the power of receiving and entertaining guests in his own hall. When he appeared in public, he rode on a horse or mule, with gilded bridle and saddle, attended by one or more esquires, or grooms, in crimson livery. He then wore, beside the ordinary dress of his order, a travelling cloak, with a hood lined with white fur or wool, woollen or leather gloves, and a hat and feathers. He was often absent for several days together, visiting the various estates of the Priory, and doing suit of court for these; attending Synods at Oxford, Aylesbury, and occasionally in London and Lincoln; the County Courts and Assizes at Oxford; the General Chapter of the Augustinian order; the meetings of the Convocation of Canterbury (commonly called in the Priory accounts, "the Archbishop's Congregation"); the great fair of St. Frideswide, in Oxford; and other occasional calls, such as the Parliament at Salisbury, in 25 Edw. I; visits to Oseney and Missenden Abbeys; to the Bishop at Buckden in Hunts; and to the Patrons. At his death he was honoured with a stately funeral, to which large numbers of people were invited.²

Twenty-six Priors presided over this Monastery, in regular succession, of whom five resigned office, and two were preferred. None of them have left any mark, except their names.

¹ A copy of this seal is given in Appendix v., vol. ii. of inscription round, "Sigill. Prioris de Burncester." Dunkin's History of Bullington and Ploughley Hundreds. It represents a full length figure, in the dress of his order, with an

² Bursar's accounts, 1433.

THE PRIORS.

Names.

Admitted.

1. John.

2. Robert.

About 1210. Ob. 1239.

3. Francis Hervey.¹

1239.

"Fra. Herveius, canon de Berncestre, obtentâ licentiâ eligendi a Com. Sarum, conventu ejusd. domus vacantem per mort. fris Rob. quondam Prioris ibidem in Prioratum electus, admissus est." (Reg. of Robert Grossthead, anno 5.)

4. Reginald. Resigned.

5. Walter de Quenton,² (Quainton, Bucks) admitted 1270.

"Vacante prioratu de Burcester p. resign. fris Reginaldi, petita licentia ab. Henry de Lacy, patrono ejusd. Walterus de Quenton, electus est, 16 Kal Jan."

(Reg. Ric. Gravesend, anno 12.)

6. William de Thornberg, admitted 1289.³ Resigned.

Admissio cession } IIJ Non Octobr' anno primo apud Mer' admisit Eps cessionem fratris Will. prior Burncestr'. } de Thornberg' prioris de Burncestr' quam prius optulerat eidem pure sponte et absolute, et ipsum absolvit a regimine dicte domus.⁴

(Register of John d'Aldreby, Bishop of Lincoln.)

7. Roger de Cottesford⁵ admitted 1300. Ob. 1331.

"Roger de Cottesford elect. Prior de Burncester p cess. fr: Will. de Thornberg p. licent. He de Lacy com. Linc. Patron. ejusd. admiss. die Martii prox post. fest. Sci Martini." (Reg. Johnis Dalderby, an. 1.)

8. Robert de Curtlington⁶ admitted 1331. Resigned.

"Fr. Rob. de Curtlington elect Prior de Burcester p mort. fris Rogeri, petita prius a Dno Ebulone L'Estrange ipsius domus patrono eligendi licentia, preficitur. 6 Kal Dec. 1331." (Reg. Henr. de Burghersch.)

"Dominus ep'us assignat provisionem pro fr'e Rob. de Curtelington post cessionem suam de prioratu de Burncestr. 3 non. Dec. 1348." (Reg. John Gynwell.)

9. Roger Ward, admitted 1348. Ob. 1349.

"Roger Ward fr. preficitur prior de Burncestr p cess. Robt. de Kyrtlyngton ult. prioris 3 Kal June, 1348." (Ibid.)

10. Nicholas de Shobyndon, admitted 1349. Ob. same year.⁷

¹ Kennett puts—under the year 1212—an exchange of land between the Priory of Berncestre, and the Nunnery of Merkyate, in Bedfordshire, in which "Hervey" is mentioned as Prior of Berncestre; but he has antedated this document. From this error he has been led into a further one of imagining the fourth Prior to have been "Richard," from the initial "R" mentioned in a deed. He then (and Mr. Dunkin follows him) makes another Robert Prior, and gives the list thus: 3, Hervey; 4, Richard; 5, Robert, 6, Henry; 7, Reginald.

² Mentioned in a surrender of land in Wrechwic to the Priory, in 1277.

³ William de Thornberg was Sub-Prior in 1277. (See Kennett's P. A. sub h.a.) He was elected Prior in 10th year of Oliver Sutton's Episcopate. (See Kennett, mclxxxix.) Writs of special protection were granted to this Prior and the Convent in 1294 and 1297 by the king Edward I, in acknowledgement of the

contribution made by them towards the war with France. (See Kennett's P. A.)

⁴ This resignation was probably not entirely voluntary. See the Bishop's letter to him, as visitor of the Priory.

⁵ "Cause delegated by the Pope to be heard by the Prior of Burcester, between the Prior and Convent of Wallingford, and Baldwin, Rector of Bottle Cleydon." (Calendar of Charters, &c., Bodlean Library, p. 5.)

⁶ At a General Chapter of the order of St. Augustine, held at Leicester in the summer of 1345, in the list of prelates and religious houses in the diocese of Lincoln, there were present for this county of Oxon, "Abbas de Oseneya, Prior de S. Frideswyda Prior de Coldenorton, Prior de Burncestre." (M.S. in Bodlean Library—Kennett's P. A.)

⁷ These two Priors evidently died of the Black Death. See p. 12.

"Fr. Nich. de Shobyndon elect Prior de Burcestre p mort fris. Rogeri Ward, 10 Kal. "Jul. 1349." (Ibid.)

11. Peter de Grete admitted 1349. Resigned.

"Fr. Petrus de Grete elect. Prior de Burcester p. mort. fris Nich. de Shobendon, "admiss. 6 Id. January, 1349." (Ibid.)

12. Robert Blaket, admitted 1354. Obit. 1382.

"Fr. Rob. Blaket electus Prior de Burncester per cess. Petri le Grete licent. obtenta "a Roger le Strange, patrono ejusdem domino, admiss. 5. Id. Dec. 1354." (Ibid.)

Some dispute followed this vacancy, which was referred to arbitrators, and settled by the election of

13 Robert Islep, admitted 1383.

"Vacante Priorat de Burcestr p mort. fris Rob. Blaket petitaq^e a Dna Alyna Le "Straunge Dna de Knokyng patrona prioratus pdict. eligendi licentia et obtenta Robertus "Islep electus est p compromiss et presentatur Dno Epo 5 Mar. 1382. Confirm 1 Apr. 1383." (Reg. Joh. de Bokingham.)

14. Geoffrey Chamburleyn, living in 1392.¹

15. Richard Parentyn, admitted before 1397.

"Dom. ep'us committit vices suas Thomæ Bekyngham rect. ecclesiæ de Balton, et Nich'o "Hessewell, rectori eccl'ie de Kirkeby super Bayne ad recipiend. decretum electionis fris "Ric'i Parentyn ad prioratum de Burcestre, et admissus est dictus fr. Ric'us 4 Oct. 1397." (Reg. John de Bokyngham.)

16. John Wantyng, admitted 1433.² Resigned.

"John Wantyng, Prior of Burcestre, has resigned the said Priory, not having from any other source "worldly means by which he can support himself according to his proper state, rank, and age. The "Bishop has preferred to the same Priory Edmund Wycomb, and he assigns to the said John for his "maintenance a place called Trymles, situate within the Priory aforesaid, with its garden; also the said "John shall have for the term of his life for the clothing and stipend of his servant, 5 "marks; also he shall have 4 cart load of firewood from the wood, or coppice of the said "Prior, and as much bread, and beer, fish and flesh, and other eatables and drinkables as "two Canons of the said Priory have been accustomed to receive; he shall have also every "month 2 lb. of wax candles for his chamber; and shall have also every week 12 flagons "of beer, and 33 loaves of the Convent for himself and servants." (Lincoln Reg^a.)

17. Edmund Wycomb, admitted 1453.

18. Robert Lawton, admitted after 1456.

19. Richard Hymbert.

20. John Tooker, admitted 1483.

21. Thomas Banbury, admitted 1485. Resigned 1498.

"Thomas Banbury electus fuit in priorem de Burcestre." (Leland. Collectan. vol. II. p. 285.)

22. Richard Potterton (or Potyrton), admitted 1499. Preferred to Nutley Abbey.
"Fr. Ric. Potterton ord. sci. August. canon regular preficitur Prior de Burcestre p. resig.
"fris Thoe Banbury, 17 Jul. 1499." (Reg. Will. Smyth.)

¹ Mentioned in the Court Rolls of this year.

² An. MCCCCXLIII. At a general charter of the Augustine Order held this year at Oseney, John, Abbot of St. Osithe, one of the presidents, appointed several abbots and priors for delegates,

to examine the state of their respective houses of religion, and to return certificates upon their enquiries of visitation, among whom the last mentioned delegate is the Prior of Burcestre. (Kennett's P.A., new Ed.)

23. William Dadyngton, admitted 1503.

"Will. Dadyngton elect. prior de Burcestr eo quod fr. Ric. Potyrton ultimus Prior ejusd. "Abbatice dignitatem de Notley acceptavit—confirm 11 Dec. 1503." (Ibid.)

24. John Coventry, admitted Oct. 11. 1510.

"Dmus Joh'es Coventre electus prior de Burcestre per mortem dni Will'i Dadyngton; "confirm 11 Oct. 1510." (Ibid.)

25. Robert Bryce, elected to Nutley Abbey.

A.D. 1527.

"THE MONASTRY OF BISSATOUR.

"Congè d elire on the resignation of Robert late Prior; in the King's hands by the "minority of Edward, Earl of Derby. Hampton Court, April. Pat. 19 Henry VIII p. 1., "m. 20."¹

26. William Browne.

In this year William Browne had been elected to the headship of the Priory of S.S Peter and Paul, a house of Augustin Canons, situated in the parish of St. Peter's at Ipswich. Cardinal Wolsey was then purposing to found his great school in that, his native, town, and to appropriate to it the property of several small monasteries there. With a view therefore of providing for one of the Priors about to be deposed, the Cardinal used his influence with the king to effect a removal to this Priory.

A.D. 1528.

"Letter of John, Bishop of Lincoln, to Wolsey."

"Is much better in health. Thanks Wolsey both for his comforting letter and words. "According to commandment has sped the elections of Notley and Burcestre. Sends the "Prior of Burcestre, who has been elected to Nottley, and the Prior of Yppeswithe who "has been elected to Burcestre, to offer their thanks to Wolsey. The Abbot is a suitor "for the King's assent in this matter. Holborn, 22nd April." Signed.²

"W., the Prior of Burcestre "is mentioned in a list of clergy summoned to the "Convocation of the Province of Canterbury from the Archdeanory of Oxford in 1529."³

Deposed in 1536.

THE BRETHREN.

The Augustinian Orders were divided into Canons Secular and Regular. The former were the clergy of cathedral and collegiate churches, who lived in community on the monastic model. The latter were the professed brethren, lay and clerical, who gathered together into societies of varying numbers, forming a Convent or Monastery, and taking vows to obey the rules of life, which governed their order. The obedientaries, admitted to fraternity in this Priory, were the Prior, eleven Canons, the Clerks of the Church and the Novices.

¹ Calendar of State Papers, vol 14, pt. 2, No. 3083.

² Ibid. No. 4187.

³ Ibid. pt. 3., page 2698.

The Canons were of differing degrees of social position. In days when monasticism prevailed, the profession of a priest or monk afforded the only opening to eminence within the reach of many. Accordingly many younger sons of noble and gentle families and many sons of peasants, flocked into the monasteries.¹

It is clear that the Canons of this Priory were mostly members of families resident in this neighbourhood. For it was a rule of the Religious, that, when they took upon themselves monastic vows, they abandoned the use of their family name, and assumed that of the place from which they came, and the names of those which have come down to us as inmates of this Convent, are mostly taken from the surrounding villages. Before their admission they had generally been educated in the schools at Oxford, either those belonging to this Priory or others, but in the latter and degenerate days of the XVth century, when in many monasteries cells were suppressed from want of occupants, young and illiterate persons were admitted as Canons, just as at the same period they were not seldom instituted to the cure of souls in parishes.

In 1409-33 the Prior, and in 1409-12, the Sub-Prior undertook the office of Bursars, owing probably to the want of juniors qualified for such business; and in the Bursar's accounts of 1412, there is mention of "a clerk of Oxford to teach grammar within the "Priory, for the instruction of the Canons," and in the same of 1440 of a "Canon attending "the schools at Oxford." In 1425 mention is made of "2 boys from London being made "Canons." In 1456 the full number of Canons was incomplete, there being then 8 Canons only, inclusive of the Prior and his predecessor in office, and 3 novices, and a few years later there were five novices filling the place of Canons, of whom 3 were in that year admitted to the Sub-diaconate and Diaconate.

Having, with rare exceptions, renounced all property upon their admission into the Convent, the Brethren were maintained out of the common fund of the house. There was a regularly graduated scale of payment from the Prior downwards to every monk and officer, and on great festivals and anniversaries of certain benefactors, they received "pietances" or "pittances," which were a small refection of meat and drink above the ordinary allowance, provided by bequests of money left for this special purpose,² and by offerings made in the Church. They also received livery, or clothing, or as in later times an allowance of money in lieu of it.

¹ "You say the Priors and Monks were not Saints. I have "no doubt a small proportion were. But taking them as a whole "the wonder is that they were so respectable as they were. It "is not enough considered by those who decry them, what the monastic life was for many centuries. It was the refuge of "hundreds and thousands, who could find no other occupation. "There was no navy as a profession, The army was not, in the "sense we understand it, a profession. Law and medicine were "very restricted. What were men to do with themselves? How "to pass life? Where to go to live? Hence numbers went into "monasteries, who had no proper or religious calling to it. And "there was next to no education then, no books hardly to read. "How can we wonder that the mass of monks were a very common

"kind of men? professedly very religious; of necessity formally "so; but taking their duties as easily as they could. Yet the "numbers who outraged their vows was wonderfully small. The "Inquisitions in Henry the VIIIth's time, atrociously partial as "they were to find fault, found comparatively little. Compare "the monks of those days with the Fellows of Colleges in the last "century, in Q. Anne's time, and downwards almost to our own "day. Were the former much lower in morals, if at all? less "religious, if at all? I think not."—(Life of R. W. Sibthorp, "p. 138—1880.)

² Adam, Archdeacon of Oxford, Alice Terry, Brackley, the Prior in 1327, were donors of such bequests.

The Canons Regular of St. Augustine were perhaps the least ascetic of the monastic orders.¹ A writer of the XIIIth century says "Among them one is well shod, well clothed, and well fed. They go out when they like, mix with the world, and talk at table." Their dress consisted of a long black cassock, over which, during divine service, they wore a short surplice or alb and a fur tippet called an almuce, and a four-square black cap, called a baret; and at other times a black cloak of velvet or cloth, and hood lined with fur, with a leathern girdle. For outer clothing they wore a hooded overcoat of cloth, or a tabard of the same material, a kind of tunic or mantle, which covered the body before and behind, reaching below the loins, but open at the sides from the shoulders downwards. The top of their head was shaved in circular form called the "corona" to represent the Saviour's crown of thorns, so that when a novice was admitted to their order he was said "to be shaved into" it,² or "to wear the blessed crown." They were distinguished from the Secular Canons by not wearing the beard; and as the parochial clergy did not then universally wear black, they were known as Black Canons.

The following will³ shows the library, wardrobe, furniture, personal and other worldly goods of a monk of this Priory, who had come from Oxford, and still retained some property there.

(TRANSLATION.)

"In the name of GOD, Amen. I, Henry of St. Edward's, thinking over my last will, "make it after this manner. First I bequeath my soul to GOD, and my body to be buried "in the Priory of Burencester. Also to the clerks of the said Priory concerned about my "body XVIII^d. Also to the Prior and Convent of Burencestre, that they may hold the "celebration of mass for my soul, I give and bequeath the Decretals,¹ glossed with the "Cases of Bernard.² Also to the same I give and bequeath a small volume with glosses, "namely The Institutes,³ the 3 books of the Supplement,⁴ and The Novellæ; also a "book of legal arguments, namely, The Questions of Bartholomew,⁵ The Treatise on difficult "questions, by Hugolin, The Questions of Pileus,⁶ and others in the same volume. Also "to the Vicar of Wotton the sum required for one trental.⁷ Also to the poor of the same "village iij^s. Also to the light of the blessed Virgin in the said Church xij^d. Also to "the light of the blessed Nicholas, and of the blessed Catherine, Virgin, xi^d. Also for the "fabric of the Church xij^d. Also to the younger Brethren of Bedeford xii^d. Also to the "Brethren of St. John in the said village; Also to the Brethren of St. Leonard xij^d. "Also to John, my eldest brother iij^s. Also to Hugh my brother a brass pot, which he "has in his keeping. Also to Roger, my brother ij^s, and to the same my robe of velvet "with a furred hood. Also to Joan my sister an acquittal of the debt in which she "is bound to me. Also to John Mile, my page, for his wages half a mark, and to the

¹ See "Scenes and Characters of the Middle Ages, by Revd. E. L. Cutts," 1872.

² "Mem. that Wm. Moore p'r of Wor. was shaven into ye "religion ye 16th daye of June, viz. on seynt Botluf's day in An. "Dom. 1488, he being at that time sixteene yers of age."—(Life of Prior Moore of Worcester.)

³ Preserved among the Oxfordshire Charters in the Bodleian library, Oxford, numbered 142. — See Calendar of Charters Turner and Coxe) p. 277.

¹ The Decretals of Pope Gregory IX.

² Bernard Botton of Parma.

³ Of Justinian.

⁴ Books IX—XII of the Codex.

⁵ Of Brescia.

⁶ Pileus, a lawyer.

⁷ Thirty masses.

"same a blanket and a sheet with a coverlet, which have been assigned for the said John's bed, and to the same I give and bequeath an overcoat of russet cloth with a hood, and to the same a tabard of the same cloth. Also to Roger my brother, a blanket and a sheet. Also to Thomas, the Barber, my desk and chair, which are in the custody of Master Roger de Astone, with the benches, which he has in his own custody. Also to Don Stephen, Canon of Berencestre, one best napkin. Also to John, son of my brother John, a silk purse. Also to Roger, my brother, I give and bequeath my house at Oxford with all its appurtenances in the parish of St. Edward. Also to Beatrice and Joan and Margery, daughters of my sister Isabella xvij^d. Also to Roger my brother my chest at Wottone. Also to Richard, Hosteler of the Priory of Burencestre xij^d. Also to Henry, son of Simon, the smith of Wotton, vj^d. Also to the sons and daughters of Henry Rivers, to each of them, iij^d. Also to Joan, daughter of my sister Isabella, a blanket of blue. Also to the Vicar of Burencestre xij^d. Also to Don Thomas, the Capellane, xij^d. Also to the Vicar's clerk, iij^d. Also to John of St. Edward's, the elder, one mazer bowl, on condition that he pay half a mark to my executors. Also to the Conventual Church of the Priory of Burencestre, the coverlet of my bed, and one silk pillow. Also to John, of Ipwelle, chamberlain of the Lord Prior, one large knife. Also to Edmund, the house Steward¹ of the said Prior, iij^d., and to the other pages, to each of them j^d. Also to John, my younger brother, xl^d; also to Don Roger, Prior of Burencestre, one towel and one napkin; also to the servants in the kitchen, in the Dairy, in the Brewhouse, in the Laundry, xij^d; also to John Mile one small chest, one pair of linen drawers (?) with shoes and stockings. And if anything remain of my goods not bequeathed, I wish it to be distributed among my poor relations, according to my executors' arrangement, as they shall stand in greater need of it. Also to Nicholas Yomele, clerk, j^d. Now as executors of my will made after this manner, I appoint John of St. Edward's, my eldest brother, Hugh and Roger, my brothers, whom I beseech with all my heart, that they faithfully execute the premises. Given at Burencestre, on Friday next after the Feast of St. Augustine, Apostle of the English, in the year MCCCXXIIJ."

THE CLERKS.

Two Clerks were attached to the Priory Church, called at first, the Senior and Junior Clerks; in the XVth century, the Clerks of St. Katherine and St. Nicholas; and occasionally, the Deacon and Sub-Deacon of the Church. They were in minor Orders, and assisted in the Church services. They received a mark for a yearly stipend, and special gifts at certain seasons; and they occasionally had the services of an assistant.

OFFICES.

Some of the Canons were yearly chosen by the Prior, generally in order of seniority, to certain offices of trust within the Convent. First of these was the Sub-Prior, or Prior's deputy, sharing his duties in his residence, and fulfilling them in his absence. The especial functions assigned to him seem to have been to say grace at dinner and supper; to call

¹ "Edmundo sonetario dicti prioris," &c. "Sonetarius appears from Du Cange to be formed from soïn, and to designate one who assists in the care of anything, charge of goods, reception of

guests, &c. "House Steward" therefore seems to express the office. He was distinct from the Chamberlain, and was probably the same as was afterwards called the Butler.

over each night the names of the brethren in the Dormitory; to keep the keys of the Convent at night; to sleep in or near the dormitory, with a light burning, to prevent wandering about at night; and to exercise a general supervision of the servants. One of the Sub-Priors of this house was elected in 1261 the second Prior of Chetwode Monastery.¹

Next in importance to the Sub-Prior was the Sacristan; and next to him the Cellarer or Kitchener. One of the monks had the charge of the sick in the Infirmary and the management of funerals, and was called the Infirmerer; another superintended the education of the novices; and two others were appointed to be the General Treasurers or Bursars of the establishment.

THE SERVANTS.

The paid officials and servants were numerous; every one of them, from the highest to the lowest, having a secondary or assistant, generally a boy or page. The most trusted of these was the Gatekeeper, the Janitor or Porter, who resided at the chief entrance, and kept watch over all persons going in or out of it.

The next in importance was the Granger (Granetarius) or Keeper of the Grange, who had charge of all the grain stored in the two barns of the Close, and the general superintendence of the land in the occupation of the Priory.

The domestic servants consisted of "the Prior's Chamberlain," called also "Yeoman of the Prior's Chamber," having under him a boy, called "the Page of the Prior's Chamber"; the Butler, or House Steward; the Cook; the Baker; the Chandler; the Miller. The outdoor servants were "the Prior's Esquires," (Armigeri) or "Grooms of the Stable," young men (garciones or garciferi,) one of whom was the Palfrey-man, or "the Prior's Gentleman," as having the special charge of the Prior's riding horse;² the Brewer, or Malt-drier; the Bailiff of the Grange; the Gardener; the pig keeper, or Oxherd. These all were under certain vows, and were kept under discipline. They received money wages of varying amount, and certain gratuities (as *e.g.*, a present of gloves³ and stockings on New Year's day); and wore a livery⁴ of brown or russett cloth, except the Prior's Esquires, who were clothed in scarlet (blood colour). Besides these residents within the Convent walls, there were employed in the regular service of the house the Barber (he was sometimes one of the monks or servants, but was frequently hired from other places); the Laundress; the

Chetwode Priors.

¹ John, sub-Prior of Burncester, succeeded on Hanworth's resignation 2 Id. Nov. Anno 1261, 45 Hen. III.; the King (who is called Patron) giving his assent. (Browne Willis's History of Bucks.)

² The original meaning of the word 'palfrey' is a horse provided, rather than owned.

³ One of the most general customs of the middle ages was the present of gloves. When made of silk and embroidery, sometimes jewelled, they were gifts for kings, princes and prelates. Again, they were given to servants engaged in agricultural labour. Tusser says:

"In Maie get a weed hooke, a crutch and a gloue,

"And weed out such weedes as the corn doth not loue."

Among the expenses of the Priory of Holy Island in 1344—5, there is an entry of "2s. 8d. for gloves for 14 servants, when they gathered the tithe corn." In Cullum's History of Hawsted, there is mention of "5 pairs of harvest gloves, 10d. and a statement that the Abbey of Bury allowed its servants 2d. a piece for glove-silver, in autumn. The custom of making presents of gloves still lingers at weddings and funerals.

⁴ Great people gave liveries. Cloth was comparatively costly, and the gradation of ranks was duly observed in the quality of the cloth. The cloak, robe or gown of the day, was often the coverlet at night. (Roger's Agricultural Prices, vol. I.)

Tailor; the Mason, or Tiler, the Carpenter, the Carters, the Plough-drivers, and the Heyward.

LIFE IN THE CONVENT.

An establishment was thus formed of from 25 to 30 men, whose daily life was ordered by rule. The constant services of the parish and conventual churches engaged much of the brethren's time and attention, while one or more of them walked each day to Stratton and Bigenhull, to perform the offices of religion in the Chapels there. Monastic life generally ran still and smooth, but on certain occasions it was pleasantly diversified. Hospitality was one of the monastic virtues, and the exercise of it gave frequent opportunities for a wholesome departure from strict rule. This was however occasionally taxed beyond what was acceptable. The early Bursar's accounts in almost every year record the purchase of special luxuries for the entertainment of distinguished guests, and such visits as those of the Earls of Lincoln, and the Lords le Strange, in the exercise of their patronage of the Convent, the Bishop of Winchester, John de Stratford, Chancellor of England and Lord Treasurer in 1327; the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Arundel, and his Commissaries, on his provincial visitation in 1412; the daughters of John of Gaunt, during a visit to Kirtlington in 1369; "Nicholas Hawbert going with his men to Scotland," in 1400; the Earl of Warwick, "with 1500 horses for a day and a night going to the King" in 145½; several Sheriffs and Under-Sheriffs of the county; the Priors of Chetwode and other monasteries; the Stewards of Wallingford when holding their Courts at Burcestre; the Chancellor of Oxford; and others of like position, were expensive matters, when these guests expected, not only to be well entertained, but to have presents of money or other valuables given to them and their attendants and servants.

The first Sunday in Advent was made a red-letter day in every year, and the numerous holy days of the Church were always special occasions for the exercise of hospitable kindness. On these days one of the various orders of Friars frequently came to preach,¹ when the clergy and others from the neighbourhood were invited to the Priory. The usual dinner hour was 11 a.m. On great occasions their feasts were enlivened by music performed by a wandering harper, or by the songs of a minstrel belonging to some great house. In the afternoon the monks and their visitors often joined the villagers in their sports, encouraging them by gifts and prizes.

Other days in each year had special observances connected with this house.

ST. EDBURG'S DAY.

The chief of these was in June,² commemorative of the Patron Saint. On that day, and within the octave, pilgrims from the neighbourhood and other places visited the Priory, where, after making their offerings at the Shrine of St. Edburg, they were permitted to view the relics contained within it. These days were therefore called "the Feast of the Relics." All visitors received some refreshment before leaving. The offerings received at this feast were the largest in the year, and were distributed among the Brethren, and in presents to the Clerks. All the servants were feasted, and occasionally a play, representing some incident in the Bible, or in the life of some Saint, in which the monks and clerks were the actors, was performed, or some other amusement provided.

¹ "Gifts. To a Friar minor preaching in the parish Church, 4d." (Minister's Accounts, Hen. IV.)

² Receipts of the Vicarage, June 1350, see p. 99.

ST. NICHOLAS' DAY.

While knighthood had its St. George, serfhood had its St. Nicholas. He was the Saint of the people, invoked alike by the peaceable citizen, by the labourer who toiled for his daily bread, by the merchant who traded to foreign parts, by the mariner overtaken by storms. He was the protector of the weak against the strong, of the poor against the rich, the guardian of young marriageable maidens, of schoolboys, and especially of the orphan poor.¹ It is no wonder therefore that more Churches are dedicated to him than to any saint in the calendar, or that his festival was especially noted. It is a common belief still in Russia, Greece, and throughout the Roman Catholic countries of Europe, that on the eve of his festival St. Nicholas will fill with dainties or gifts of some kind the cap or stocking of such persons as place themselves under his peculiar care, or gain his special favour by their docile or obedient conduct. In accordance with an old custom, the two Clerks of the Parish Church came to the Priory on the eve of St Nicholas' day (December 6th) in each year; and probably, with some kind of ceremony, carrying perhaps an image of the child-bishop, visited the various apartments of the Convent, when presents of money were given to them, generally 6^d. in the Prior's Chamber, 2^d. in the Refectory, and 4^d. in the kitchen and other offices. These sums were a yearly charge in the Bursar's accounts, and apparently answered to our Christmas boxes.

THE FOUNDER'S DAY.

It is a common belief that the religious houses of the middle ages were so many fountain heads of indiscriminate charity, from which doles of food were dealt out daily to every applicant; but there is no evidence of this in fact. The monks were liberal in giving, but they did not intentionally encourage pauperism. On two days in each year the Brethren of this Convent dispensed their stated charities to those around them. On the day kept in commemoration of their Founder they made a great feast, to which they invited all residents within the village. This was called "The Feast of the Parishioners." Small gifts of money were then distributed to the poor. The cost of this feast in the reign of Richard II was £1 2^s. 3½^d., but in the XVIth century it was reckoned as follows:

"Alms given

"For the soul of Gilbert Basset, the Founder of the aforesaid Monastery, in } £ s. d.
 "distributions and parish alms in Burcestre aforesaid, to be paid each year } vj., — „, xx
 "and for ever, as more fully appears by the charter aforesaid." (Val. Eccles.)

SHERE THURSDAY.

On the Thursday before Easter, generally called in the Priory accounts "the day of preparation," or "Shere Thursday,"² the poor only came to the Priory. The prior and each

¹ Mrs. Jameson's "Sacred and Legendary Art."

² "The name 'Shere Thursday' arose, for that in old father's days the people would that day shere theyr hedes, and clypp theyr berdes, and pool theyr heedes, and so make them honest agenst Easter day." (From an old Homily quoted in the Weekly Packet of Advice from Rome, 1 p. 168.)

A writer in the "Gentleman's Magazine," (July 1799, vol. xlix: p. 349) conjectures that "sheer" means clean, and may therefore allude to the washing of the disciples' feet on that day. It was

customary to wash the altars of churches on that day.

In the accounts of the Priory of St. Mary at Huntingdon, we find:

"Given to 12 pore men upon Shere Thursday, 2^s."

In the accounts of Barking Abbey:

"Delyverd to the seyd coke for Sher Thursday, viii pounds ryse."

"Item delyveryd to the seyd coke, for Shere Thursday, xviii.

"pound almans."

See Langley's "Polidore Virgill," fo. 1016.

monk then performed the ceremony of washing the feet of such of these as were presented by the Almoner, probably twelve, at the Lavatory in the Cloister. Doles of bread, fish, ale and small pence were then given to them for the maundy.¹ This was called "Coena Domini,"—the Lord's Supper—in allusion to Christ's last supper with His disciples. The expense of the maundy was trifling, 2^s. in the XIVth, and a mark in the XVth centuries,

"Alms Given."

"Also in the Lord's Supper, namely, Sherethursday, to all poor or s. d.
"leprous persons and others then assembling, in bread, porter, fish and { -., xiiij., iiij.
"money, yearly and for ever," (Val. Eccles.)

The anniversary of the consecration of the Church was also duly observed.

VISITOR OF THE PRIORY.

By the old laws, both ecclesiastical and civil, all monasteries were subjected to the Bishop of the Diocese within which they were situated. This Priory was therefore under the jurisdiction of the Bishops of Lincoln. A record of a visitation made by John de Aldreby, in the first year of his episcopate, A.D. 1300, shows some matters then brought under his notice.²

(Translation.)

"John, &c., to the Prior³ and Convent of Burncestre, greeting.

"Although in the visitation which we lately made in your house, we ordained that "you, the Prior, should, before the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross next following, in the presence of certain persons elected by the Convent, render an account "of your administration, from the time you took upon yourself the office of Prior; now, in "order that you may more effectually proceed in the rendering of this account, we "specially enjoin and command you that this account be by no means rendered, or even "heard, until we have sent you some other persons on our own part, that they, together "with the persons to be elected by the Convent, may hear the same account, as we propose to do, immediately after the aforesaid Feast of the Exaltation.

"We also strictly enjoin you, the Prior, by the presents, under the due of obedience, "that in the meanwhile you carefully abstain from that wasting of the goods of your "house, which after our visitation aforesaid, you were reported to have purposed; and from "the persecution of your brethren, of which we have heard a complaint. Farewell. Given "at Lydington, on the 6th of the Kalends of September, in the first year of our "consecration."

¹ "Ad mandatum die Coenæ," &c., in allusion to the mandate or new commandment, which on this day Christ gave to His disciples, that they should love one another, as He had loved them. An old writer of the age of Wiclif says: "Christ made His maundy and said 'Take, eat,' &c." (Hook's Church Dictionary.)

² There is reference to the receipt of these letters in the Bursar's accounts of 1303.

³ 12d. to the messenger of the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, "bearing corrections."

³ William de Thornberg.

(Translation.)

"John, &c., to the Prior and Convent of Burncestre, health, &c.

"How often have we written to you that you ought to remind your Co-Canon, Brother "John de Asthall,¹ to make satisfaction to William de Asthall, about the sum of money "in which he is bound, arising out of a suit at law, and of which we had full knowledge "and discussion at our visitation made in your house, by a deposit. And because the said "William urges us hereto by his very clamour, we entrust it to you, in virtue of your "obedience, strictly enjoining you, that you delay not to compel the said John to satisfy "the said William about this demand, so that he may recover and possess the whole, or if "by chance he has repaid any of it at his house or elsewhere, part of it, from those per- "sons to whose use and advantage he is supposed in some way or other to have con- "verted it; besides punishing the same for this fault, which seems not to be free from "fraud, according to the discipline of the Order, by taking from him in the meanwhile "whatever may be taken possession of, beyond the necessities of life; and bestowing on "the aforesaid William, the present claimant, some assistance or other; and that you take "notice that by the said Brother John's conduct in this case, the good name of your "house is injured otherwise than it ought to be.

"Given at Bukeden on the 9th of the Kalends of June, in the first year of our "consecration."

(Translation.)

"John, &c., to the Prior of Burncestre, health, grace and benediction. If after making "his confession to the Lord Robert de Kilwarby, Archbishop of Canterbury,² Primate of "all England, and secondly to the Lord Oliver,³ of good memory, our nearest predecessor, "the same fathers, for whose deeds we ought to subject ourselves in this matter, granted "to your Co-Canon Brother Edmund Carbonel, by the sign of the Cross given to him, an "injunction to go on a journey to the Holy Land; and the said Brother Edmund, led by "a true desire, and in no way urged by an opportunity of escaping from regular discipline, "and for the purpose of going abroad, desires to fulfill this injunction, as he says, and no "canon stands in the way, We, so far as in us lies, give leave that you may lawfully "empower the aforesaid Brother Edmund, to fulfill this his earnest wish.

"Given at Burg St. Peter's,⁴ on the second of the nones of May, in the first year "of our consecration."

Soon after the date of the foregoing letters, many of the religious houses of this country claimed an exemption from the Bishop's right of visitation,⁵ which became one of the main

¹ Mentioned in the Bursar's accounts of 1296.

² 273—1278.

³ Oliver Sutton, Bishop of Lincoln 1280—1300.

⁴ Peterborough.

⁵ Chiefly on the ground of expense. The visits of the Archbishops to their province, and of the Bishops to the monasteries, were very burdensome; for they came accompanied with a number of officers, whose services were required for the many semi-secular duties, such as proving of wills, administering to estates, issuing commissions and dispensations, &c., which claimed their

attention. The procuring of victuals and provender for church officers became so heavy an impost that it called forth several injunctions during the XIIIth century, and under the most memorable of these, that of Othobon, it was strictly forbidden to an Archbishop to visit with more than 50 horses or men, or a Bishop with more than 20 or 30, while an Archdeacon might only bring 5 or 6, and a Rural Dean was restricted to 2. Eventually this charge was converted into a compensation in money, and is still claimed under the old term of Procurations.

causes of their subsequent degeneracy, but there is no evidence of such a claim being made for this house. In the accounts rendered to Henry VIIIth's Commissioner's, mention is made of the expenses of the Bishop's visitation every third year, from which we may conclude that the eighteen Bishops of Lincoln, in succession to John d' Aldreby, maintained their right, however lenient they may have been in the exercise of it.

BENEFACTORS.

From time to time, through two centuries, various gifts of land increased the endowment of this Priory. These were the freewill offerings of individuals who took a special interest in this house, and sought a benefit to their souls by showing kindness to the brethren. They were all made in one and the same form,—“To God, and the Church “of the Blessed Mary and of St. Edburg of Berncestre, and the Canons serving God “there,——for the welfare of their own (the donor's) soul and the souls of (others being mentioned) —— as a pure and perpetual alms, free and quit from all exactions and “secular service, save that due to the Lord the King,” several persons being named as witnesses of each deed of gift.

BENEFACTORS.	DATE OF GIFT.	GIFTS.
The Founder and his } wife }	1182	Chapel of Stratton, with its endowment of one virgate of land. Forty acres of land in Burncester, and the Chapel of the Manor House and one virgate of land, in Stratton. ¹
—	1193	All our lands of Votesdune and Westcote. ²
—	1201	Land and 2 mills, at Kertlington. ³
Maud de Chesney	1197	5 seams or quarters of bread corn, to make hosts or consecrated bread, from her manor of Heyford Warren.
Widow of the Founder. .	1210	Half the manor of Wrechwic, with Gravenhull Wood.

¹ Besides the first charter of foundation given on page 06, there is another copy of the same, entitled “Carta Gileberti “Basset de fundatione ecclesiæ de Burcestre,” and subscribed “Cum bulla Celestini Papæ de confirmatione ecclesiarum de “Ardyngton, Missenden et Compton.” A second charter in parchment, with same seal, recites the Chapel of Stratton with lands there, as an appurtenance to Burcestre, and then repeats literatim the first donation. A third and larger charter made in the same year, conveys this additional gift of 40 acres of the Founder's demesne; 20 acres in one of the common fields, and 20 in the other. (See Kennett's P.A., and MCLXXXII.) The Charter of Gilbert Basset recited in the Patent of Confirmation in 9 Edward II, inserted in Dugdale's Monasticon, is made up of these three charters reduced to one, with some few omissions and alterations. This, and many other deeds of gift which follow, passed into Sir W. Glynn's hands, after the dissolution of the Priory. They were seen by Bishop Kennett, and are given in his

“Parochial Antiquities.” The greater part of them afterwards came into the possession of Charles Combe, M.D., and from him they passed to Henry Ellis, Esq., of the British Museum. The following is the list of MSS. preserved in the Museum, relating to this Priory:

CHARTERS.—10,597. Litteræ quibus Gilebertus Basset et Egelina uxor sua concedunt ecclesiæ Sanctæ Edburgæ de Berncestria (co. Oxon) terram suam de Votesdun et de Westcote. 10593—4; 10,597—10,601; 10,603; 10,605; 10,619; 10,623—10,625; 10,627—10,633.

² This land in Waddesdon and its hamlet was part of the marriage portion of Egeline de Courtney, the manor being at that time and long afterwards, the property of her family.

³ In the deed of this gift, Gilbert Basset expressed his wish to be buried within the Priory, “cum corpore meo ibidem sepeliendo.” See p. 4.

BENEFACTORS.	DATE OF GIFT.	GIFT.
Richard de Camvill, lord of the manors of Berncestre and Mid- dleton, and Eustace his wife, daughter of the Founder	1209	All the tithe of hay, in the demesne lands of Berncestre, Wrechwic and Stratton.
—	1211	A messuage in Crockwell
—	1214	One virgate of land in Berncestre, "for a lamp before the altar of St. Nicholas for ever" (afterwards called "Candlemas Meadow.") ¹
James le Bret, lord of Bigenhull manor ..	1212	4 acres of land, adjoining the Priory. ²
—	1216	"A meadow in Bigenhull, which is called Kinsitheam," &c.
—	1218	5 acres of land, in Crockwell. ³
Robert Fitz-Michael, of Berncestre	1217	2 acres of land adjoining the Priory, and 2 others. ⁴
Muriel and Isabel Gar- gate de Kaversfield }	1219	A croft, adjoining the Priory.
Isabel Gargate		A virgate of land, in Stratton.
Thomas Brito	1222	12 acres of land, in Burncester. ⁵
Walter de Kertlington.	1227	A mill and land, at Kirtlington.
—	1230	More land adjoining the mill, at Kirtlington,
Alan Basset, Baron of Wycombe, Bucks. }	(Ob. 1232)	200 marks.
Gilbert Basset, son of the above		Land, in Deddington. ⁶
William de Longspe, lord of Berncestre and Middleton manors . }	1234	Land in Wrechwic and Gravenhull wood, and a meadow, called Coubrigge,
—	1245	The Horsecroft and adjoining water-mill, and a messuage in Crockwell.

¹ On condition that the aforesaid Robert (the Prior) or his "heirs, shall find one lamp before the altar of St. Nicholas, in the "greater church of St. Mary and St. Edburg of Berncester, for "ever," &c.

² In Gore adjoining the Ham of Gilbert, &c., the same as is called in the founder's deed of gift, "the croft of Gilbert the "miller"

³ Containing "the marsh which is called Crockwell-Moor, and "4 selions of land which are called Buttes and reach to Eldeford, "with the liberty of the stream, to make a sheepcote, or whatever "they may may prefer," &c.

⁴ "2 lying in Buricroft, outside the Court of the said Canons, "and 1 in Fort-furlong, and 1 in Crockwell furlong.

⁵ "In the field of Magendune."

⁶ Alice Basset, a niece of the founder, and widow of William Malet, Baron of Corey Malet, Somersetshire (who died before

1224, s.p.m.) holding in dowry the manor of Deddington, gave some land there to her nephew, Gilbert Basset. The deed of gift is preserved in the Bodleian Library. (See "Calendar of Charters and Rolls," p. 684.)

There is also in the same place a lease of these lands by the Priory, in 1331.

"Convention made the Monday next after the Feast of St. "Edburge, Virgin, 10 Ed. III. between Robert, the Prior of "Burcestre, and Convent of the same of the one part, and John "le Man, Amicia Pikkard, and Walter Pikkard, son of the said "John and Amicia, of the other; viz: that the said Prior and "Convent have granted one messuage and 50 acres of lands, with "their headlands, &c., and all their appurtenances, situate in "Dadyngton, to hold the same during their lives, at an annual "rent of 24s.

This lease is given in full, in Kennett's P.A., ano MCCCXXXVI.

BENEFACTORS.	DATE OF GIFT.	GIFT.
William de Longspe, } lord of Berncestre }	?	The chapel and land at Sutton, in Northamptonshire. ¹
Philippa Basset, Countess of Warwick .. }	1244	7 ^s . of rent in Studley, Warwickshire for a lamp before the altar of St. John the Baptist. ²
Sir Ralph de Chester- } ton, Knight }	1244	A Knight's fee in the village of Betreton.
Philip Basset, 4th Baron } of Wycombe..... }	1249	16 acres of arable land, and 1 acre of meadow, in Berncestre.
—	1271	Land in Clifton, Hinton, Deddington and Grimsbury, (in the parish of Bannebury.)
Ela, widow of James Aldithley, 2nd Baron }	1272	The second half of Wrecwic manor.
Walter Burcester, Clerk	1320	Land in Grimsbury and Warkworth. ³
Richard Serich	1322	1 messuage and 9 acres of arable land, in Berencester.
Trustees of Thomas de } Stapenhulle	1349	Land in Burncester and Middleton. ⁴
Richard L'Estrange, lord } of Burncester and } Middleton manors }	1440	Cowbridge meadow, and the Mill piece.

¹ No deed of this gift is known to exist, but the records of the Manor Courts of Aynhoe show that the Prior of Burcester did suit and service there for his land in Sutton: (See Bridge's History of Northamptonshire, vol. i. p. 81.)

"Leland, speaking of the chapel at Sutton, says: "This Chapel belonged to the Prior of Burcester, and went with the mother Church of Sutton and Bokingham Chapel, upon the gift of the Longspe's, in the reign of Henry III."

"Though here (at Buckingham) was a Church very early in the Saxon age, yet was it dependant on King's Sutton, in Northamptonshire, 14 miles off; which was, no doubt, one continued parish, comprizing all the intermediate ones." (Browne Willis's History of Bucks.)

² "To find one lamp, always burning, before the altar of the Blessed John the Baptist, in the Conventual Church of Berencester, for ever," &c.

³ Walter Burcester, purposing to give to the Priory of Burcester 1 messuage, 10 acres of arable land, 4 acres of meadow and 25^s. yearly rent, with other appurtenances in Grymesbury and Werkworth, petitioned for the King's consent to dispense with the Statute of Mortmain. An inquisition was then ordered, and the jury ordained that it would not be to the damage of the king, if

he gave leave to Walter Burcester to make the said grant to the Prior and Convent of Burcester.

In 9 Edward II, 1315, the Prior of Burcester was certified to be lord of Grimsbury. In 14 Edward II, Walter de Burcester had license to make his grant.

In 19 Edw. II, (1325) John le Botiler, and Beatrice, his wife, claimed against the Prior and Convent a moiety of the manor of Grimsbury, as the right of Beatrice by inheritance; and in 4 Ed. III, (1330) the Prior and Convent gave the king a mark, for license of agreement with the claimants, who bound themselves in £100 to levy a fine of the said moiety to the Prior and Convent. (Baker's History of Northamptonshire, vol. ii. p. 747.)

⁴ "Know all, &c., that we, Thomas Cok, Capellane of Middlelington, William de Stratton, Capellane of Langeton, and Richard de Caversfield, Capellane, have given, &c., all the lands, tenements, rents and services, &c.

"These being witnesses: Richard de Williamscothe, William de Audelly, Nicholas Povre, Thomas de Kyneshell, John Jeardan, and many others.

"Given at Burncester, October 5, in the XXIIIrd year of King Edward, the 3rd after the Conquest." (Kennett's P.A., s.h.a.)

"Thomas Cok, Capellanus et al. pro Priore et Conventu de Burncestre. 24 Edw. III. Inqs. p. mortem.

CHANTRIES.

Besides the inmates of the Convent and their benefactors, many other persons, of all conditions, were admitted to fraternity. These took an oath to bear goodwill towards the house, to enter it if they entered any, to make an annual payment to it, and to defend it from all evil doers. In return they were mentioned in the prayers of the brethren during their lifetime, and after death were buried in the Convent Church, or Cemetery. Their names were then entered in the Martyrology or Register of the house, together with the date of their death and the amount of their benefaction, in order that at certain times, generally every month (called "month's mynd," *i.e.*, remembrance) or year (called "years mynd"), they might be had in remembrance, and prayed for. Thus Isabel Gargate, in her deed of gift in 1219, records: "The said Canons have received me, and the lady my mother, specially into their prayers, and the suffrages of their house for ever. And when we shall have departed this life, they will cause our names to be written in their Martyrology."

Master Walter de Foderingeye had been a lawyer long connected with this Priory, and a frequent visitor within its walls. At his death he left £40, that his body might be buried within the Priory Church, and a mass said for his soul. A new Chantry Chapel was then prepared, and his portrait in stained glass placed in one of the windows.¹ The following Indulgence was also obtained:

"7 Ides April, 1323, at Oseny. The Bishop granted an Indulgence of xi. days to "all persons who pray for the soul of the late Master Walter de Foderingeye, whose body "rests in the Conventual Church at Burncestre, in the diocese of Lincoln."

Another mass was founded by Thomas de Worton, in the first half of the XIVth century.²

"The following deed, illustrative of such foundations, and recording a third chantry, has been preserved at Lincoln:

(Translation.)

"To all the sons of Holy Mother Church to whom this present writing shall come, Brother "Robert, the humble Prior of Burencestre, in the diocese of Lincoln, and of the Convent of the "same place, sends health, and whatever sweeter thing may be drawn by prayer for the welfare "of souls from the side of 'The Crucified.' The boundless mercy of Almighty God ceases not "to recompense with a merited and worthy reward, those who so increase the means of the "Church, that by a happy interchange they transfer earthly things to heavenly, and temporal to "eternal. The force of Reason also surely demands that a liberal gift of temporal good "things, assigned by the donors, should, so far as it proceeds from the zeal of love, be, by "the obligation of a perpetual bond, commended to continual and undying commemoration; "therefore we, the aforesaid Prior and Convent, who desire to bring help to ourselves in "time to come by the prayers of others, do now, so far as we have the means of "obtaining favour, pour forth our prayer to the Lord God for our benefactors, and for "those who have lived before us; and we do now put it before others as an example, and

¹ Bursar's Accounts, A.D. 1316 and 1317.

² *Ibid.*, A.D. 1327.

“make it known to you all by the presents, that since the devout man Godfrey de Bygnhull,
 “raising his mind to heavenly desires, and aiming to assist by his benefits those who wait
 “upon divine service, has improved the condition of our aforesaid house, by devoting to it
 “diverse works and means; we then, considering this, and his other grateful services, which
 “in times past have been in many ways profitable to us and our monastery, and which,
 “as we hope, may become yet more so in the future, not obliged, nor in any way com-
 “pelled, but moved thereto by our mere free voluntary goodwill, and a sound conscience,
 “to render to our benefactors a surer account of their good deeds, do, with the unanimous
 “assent and consent of our whole Convent given hereto by a corporal writing, grant, and
 “bind ourselves and our successors and our monastery, by the presents, to find one per-
 “petual chantry for the said Godfrey in life and in death; while indeed he shall be living
 “with that collect, ‘O Almighty everlasting God, have mercy upon thy servant,’ &c., and
 “when he shall have gone the way of all flesh, with the Office of the Dead, as it is fit,
 “the double Festivals and the Lord’s days excepted, from that Office of the Dead, while
 “then a special collect may be had for him in the Mass, for the souls of the father and
 “mother of the same, of their parents and benefactors, and others, of whose goods, while
 “living, he had received, and of all the faithful departed, to be celebrated by one of our
 “Canons specially deputed in our chapter by us and our successors for this purpose, in
 “our Conventual Church every day for ever, the days of the Lord’s Passover Supper, and
 “the holy Sabbath of the Passover alone excepted; and this Godfrey de Bygnhull we
 “have, in all the spiritual fraternity of our house, received as a brother and benefactor,
 “granting to the same in life and in death a participation of all our spiritual benefits in
 “prayers, fasts, watchings, masses and matins, and all other canonical hours and devotions.
 “And further, this Godfrey, in completing the presents, has desired that his body should
 “be buried in our Conventual Church, on condition that wherever he die, if in parts be-
 “yond the seas, we cause an inquest to be made by some of our Canons, at our own
 “proper costs, and that then for his soul, when he is dead, each of the Canons of our
 “aforesaid house, severally, having had previous notice, shall on the day of his burial
 “devoutly celebrate the Office of the Dead, solemnized for the same as for our Founder,
 “as it is fit, in all things, and that on the same day, or within the eight days immedi-
 “ately following, each of the Canons severally shall say one Psalter; and that thus they
 “shall do for the same Godfrey in every and in each year for ever on the day of his
 “anniversary, and shall say the Psalteries within the next eight days, on which day of his
 “anniversary he shall be mentioned by name in our full chapter, and in other places what-
 “ever they be, to which they, the Canons, may be sent away; and that it shall be done
 “for him every day for ever in morning mass and all other morning masses, and in every
 “divine office, as is wont and ought to be done for the Founder of the said house, in
 “Church, Chapter, and other places. We further will and grant for ourselves and our suc-
 “cessors that every new Prior in our monastery should take a corporal oath to the Diocesan
 “for the time being, to observe, hold, do, and faithfully fulfil on his part in everything,
 “all and each of the premises, as it is set forth, before he has received the obeisance of
 “the Convent, or is himself installed in the monastery; and that each novice severally,
 “before he is admitted to his profession in the same monastery, shall be bound by the
 “obligation of the same oath, namely, that he will faithfully keep the aforesaid ordinance

"in each of its articles, any impediment notwithstanding, and will sustain and maintain the said Chantry, as it is set forth, as far as he is able. And if it happen that we or our successors fail to observe the premises (which be far from us), we promise for ourselves and our successors to pay without delay to the almonry of the Diocesan of the place, as often as we shall be convicted of the non-observance of the premises, or any of the premises, 100 shillings of silver in the name of a penalty without any exception, and notwithstanding, be compelled to supply what is not done in this part; and that it shall be lawful for the Diocesan of the place for the time being to publish us and our successors as negligent, and to compel us to make satisfaction of all and each of the premises, according to the form set forth, without judicial respite; but if the Diocesan on his part shall be negligent or remiss, that then the cognizance of the aforesaid should fall within the powers of the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, who is the head of the English Church.¹ Now for this grant, and the keeping of the aforesaid Chantry and for the confirmation of this writing, the same Godfrey, by the license of the Lord the King, has given to us one messuage, together with one virgate of land, and their appurtenances in Samford in the County of Oxford, in the Hundred of Bolenden, which he had of the gift and feoffment of William de Willeby, and of William, son of the same William; and because the said tenements are not sufficient to support the burdens aforesaid, the same Godfrey has given to us £100 of silver off-hand, which money will by a perpetual title be entirely appropriated and converted to obtaining lands and rents for our said house, and not applied to other uses. And that we, the aforesaid religious men and our successors, may be able to sustain the said burdens and labours without harm for ever, the same Godfrey wills and grants that the Prior of the said house for the time being, shall each year while the said Godfrey lives, on the day of the Commemoration of souls, receive from the said messuages and lands and their appurtenances in Samford 2^s. and each of the Canons 12^d., and that when the said Godfrey shall have gone the way of all flesh, the payment and receiving of the said 2^s. and 12^d. as is set forth, shall for ever be made and received on the day of his anniversary; and whatever surplus remains of the true value of the said tenements with their appurtenances in Samford beyond the said payment, shall be put to the common fund of the Canons of the aforesaid house for ever. Now We, the aforesaid Robert, Prior of Burcester, and each of the Canons, having touched and seen God's Holy Gospels, take our corporal oaths, and each one of us has taken his corporal oath that we will cause this celebration as it is set forth, to be faithfully made, and we will duly and decently sustain and maintain it for ever; and that we have asked, and will ask nothing from the lord the most high Pontifex, or from the lord the King of England, or from any other of any state, dignity, condition, order, preeminence and power whatever, whereby the aforesaid celebration may in any way be withdrawn, or diminished contrary to the form set forth. In testimony whereof, to his part of an Indenture re-

¹ "Tunc cedat cognicio predictorum in redicoe dni Cantuar' Archiepi, qui caput est ecclesie Anglicane."

² "Samford in Com' P' dicto, Dioces. Lincoln."

"D' firmario ibm p uno mesuagio & una virgat } £ s. d.
 "terre cum ptens solubil, t'm ad fm sci michis canonic' } ,, v. ,,
 "Deo svient in agmentacoe stipendorm suom p annu

Deductiones & Resolucoes ibm

Elemosina dat

"Po aia Godfridi de Bygenhull bnfactoris mo pdci " ,, vi
 "qui dedit canonic' p salterio davitico, dicent' in } in to
 "ejus advs singlis eorm p se dicent sepati, in elemos eis } p. annu
 "distribuend annuati et imppm." " v "

(Val. Eccles. Hen. VIII.)

"maining with the same Godfrey, we, the aforesaid Prior and Convent, have affixed the common seal of our house, together with the seal of our said office as Prior, and to the other part, remaining with the said Prior and Convent, the same Godfrey has affixed his seal. Given at Burncester in our Chapter on Thursday at the Feast of the Founder, in the year of the Lord 1333.

"Now we, Henry,¹ by divine permission Bishop of Lincoln, have carefully inspected in every part the aforesaid letters presented to us on the 4th of the Nones of June in the year of the Lord 1333 at Bannebury, and by our pontifical authority we do of our own certain knowledge approve and ratify them by the presents, and all that is contained in the same, as far as they have proceeded justly, orderly and lawfully. And in testimony of this inspection, approval and ratification, our seal is affixed to the presents. Given on the day, at the place, and in the year of the Lord above named."

Two other similar benefactions are known.

William Hayley, in the reign of Richard II, left some land at Heythrop near Banbury, which was thus accounted of to Henry VIIIth's Commissioners:²

"Neithrope, in the County aforesaid, and within the Diocese of Lincoln, &c.

"From Henry Taye and William Smythe of the same, tenants there by	}	£	s.	d.
"copy of court-roll of 2 messuages, payable at 2 terms of the year in dis-			xxxii	
"tributions to the Canons serving God, yearly and for ever."				

"Deductions and Repayments there in alms.

"For the soul of William Hayley, a benefactor of our aforesaid monastery,	}	£	s.	d.
"there is given to the Canons for saying one collect daily at the celebration				
"of the Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary, namely, 'Incline, O Lord, Thine			xxxii	
"ears,' &c., payable at the 4 quarters of the year, to be distributed by the				
"hands of the Prior there yearly and for ever."				

Nicholas Baker of Kirtlington gave a mill there, which is similarly accounted for.

"Kyrtlyngton and Tackley in the county aforesaid, and in the Diocese of Lincoln.

"From John Andrews for a water mill there, demised to him for a term	}	£	s.	d.	
"of years, payable at the 4 quarters of the year, in distributions to the			iii	vi	viii
"Canons of Burncester aforesaid serving God for ever, yearly."					

"Deductions and repayments there, alms.

"For the soul of Nicholas Baker, a benefactor of the monastery aforesaid,	}	£	s.	d.	
"there is given to the Canons of the same place, serving God, for performing					
"at the 4 quarters of the year funeral rites for his soul, and for the souls			iii	vi	viii
"of all the dead, in alms from old time and for ever."					

¹ Henry de Burghersh, consecrated Bishop of Lincoln, May 27th, 1320. Ob. Dec. 1340.

This document is preserved in the Lincoln Registers.

² Val. Eccles, under the property of this Priory. See also Priory accounts, 1377—1399.

THE PRIORY SCHOOLS.

It was a rule of the religious orders, and especially that of St. Augustine, that provision should be made for the education and maintenance of students at the Universities. Obedience to this rule was impossible in this Priory, until Baron Alan Basset, in 1233, left a munificent sum of money (200 marks=£133 6s. 8d.) for this purpose. This bequest was laid out in the purchase of land in Arncliffe, in Ambrosden parish. With a portion of the rent of this land, amounting to 6 marks, (£5 6s. 8d.) the Priory hired a small house in Oxford for the reception of two students.¹ This house was situated in "School-street,"² and was known as "The Schools of the Priory of Bercestre",—*Scholæ Burcestrienses*.—Anthony Wood describes these schools, but ventures a wrong conjecture as to their origin.

"The schools of Burcester belonged to the Priory of Burcester, situated in the county of Oxford. They were held in a tenement adjoining the schools belonging to University College. But the owner of them paid by the hands of the Bailiff of the aforesaid Priory a yearly sum of money to the Abbey of Oseney. In the rents of Oseney the house is sometimes called 'Hastyng,' from which it may be inferred that some one of that name gave to the said Priory either the house itself, or at least the pension which I have mentioned, as accruing therefrom to Oseney, in the time of Henry III. And yet I find very rare and accidental mention, so to say, of this in the rents of the aforesaid schools."

No direct reference to these schools occurs in the records of the Priory, which are extant. It seems more than probable that after the lapse of a short time, the rent of the land in Arncliffe was absorbed in the general fund of the Priory, and that then the maintenance of the schools in Oxford was abandoned.

THE PRIORY ACCOUNTS.

The monks were careful managers of their property. They always kept in their own occupation the greater part of the land, which lay near their house. Their cows grazed at Wrecwicz, and their sheep were folded at Crocwell, while in other parts grew the grain crops, which filled the Convent Grange. Their more distant possessions they at first placed under the care of reeves or bailiffs, but towards the end of the XVth, or at the beginning of the XVIth century, they gave up farming these estates, and then let them to tenants at a fixed yearly rental. Landholders began to keep regular accounts during the last 20 years of Henry IIIrd's reign. A number of accounts and other documents belonging to this Priory escaped destruction at the time of its dissolution, many of which are now preserved among the Miscellanea of the Exchequer in the Public Record Office, and are known as "The Burcester Rolls,"³ 75 in number, contained in 2 bundles, and catalogued as follows:

¹ They were often called "Chaplains," because, in return for the benefits they received, they were expected to pray for the souls of their benefactor and his wife, as directed in their deed of gift.

² This street ran from the west end of St. Mary's Church, passing along the King's wall of Brasinhus to the north wall of the city, and was tenanted by schools or places of education. These schools were originally attached to the halls there situated, being commonly the largest rooms in them; while others were dependencies of the monastic bodies in the neighbourhood, and were but rooms over the tradesmen's shops.

See Kennett's P.A., MCCXXXIII, new edition.

³ In a letter, dated Bromley, February 3rd, 1826, Mr. Dunkin tells us that these rolls were said to have been brought from Bicester at the dissolution of the Priory, to be placed in the Augmentation Office, in London. Hence they were taken by Sir. T. Pope, and by him given to Trinity College, Oxford. In 1820 or 1821 they were sent up to London, either for the purpose of being inspected by Mr. Caley (in whose possession they were when Mr. Dunkin examined them, and copied some), or of undergoing some repair. They were subsequently returned to Trinity College. (Rev. T. Symons' M.SS. in the Clerk of the County's Office, Oxford.)

Exchequer Q. R. Minister's Accounts. Burcester Priory.

Bundle 55.

List of Rolls.

- 1.—20 Hen. III. Lease by Lady Isabella Gargat to the Priory, of lands in Kanewell.
2. 14-15 Edw. I. Reeve's account. Caveresfeld, Manor of Caveresfeld.
3. 15-17 — Court Rolls of Burcester, Kaveresfield and Wrechewich and Curtlington.
4. 19-20 — Minister's account. Curtlington.
5. 20-21 — Bailiff's account, Manor of Stratton, Manor of Levehampton.
6. 20-21 — Account, Stratton.
7. 26-27 — Bailiff's account, Manor of Beamond.¹
8. 28 — Bailiff's account, Manor of Levenhampton.
9. 29 — Stratton.
10. 29-30 — Bursar's accounts.
11. 31 — Bursar's account of the Priory. Stratton, Grimmesbury, Kirtlyngton.
12. 32 — Reeve's account.
13. — Ministers' Accounts. Wrethewyk, Stratton, Kaversfeld, Wenlyngbur, Wescote, Cleton, Tackele, Kertlenton, Ardele.
14. — Husbandry account.
15. 2 Edward II. Court Roll of Burcester Priory.
16. 3 — Reeve's account. Westkote.
17. 5-6 — Account. Vicarage of Burcester.
18. 9-10 — Account. Manor of Beaumont.
19. 9-10 — Bursar's account.
20. 9-10 — Account sacristan.
21. 11 — Bursar's account.
22. 11 — Account.
23. 13-14 — Account of Sacristan.
24. 13-14 — Bursar's account.
25. — Account.
26. (Edw. I. or II.) Account of Stock purchased for the Monastery. (Mutilated and defaced; no title.)
27. 1 Edw. III. Bursar's account.
28. 9 — Bailiff's Account. Manor of Bemond.
29. 12-13 — Account of the Reeve of Westcote.
30. 14 — Account of the Vicarage of Burcester and Stratton.
31. 15 — Account of Vicar of Burcester and Stratton.
32. 18-19 — Bursar's account.
33. 20-21 — Minister's account.
34. 28-29 — Bursar's account.
35. 30 — Court Roll, Burcester.
36. 30-31 — Account. Vicarage of Burcester.
37. 34-35 — Account. Vicarage of Burcester.
38. 35 — Court Roll.
39. 34 & 36. — Court Rolls of Burcester, Beaumont.

¹ This was the name of the Priory estate at Little Missenden, Bucks. There is no known record of the donor of it.

Bundle 55.

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| 40. | 35-36 | — | Account. Vicarage of Burcester. |
| 41. | 42-43 | — | Sacristan's Account. |
| 42. | 45-46 | — | Ditto. |
| 43. | 46 | — | Court Roll of Burcester. |
| 44. | 47-48 | — | Sacristan's account of the Priory. |
| 45. | | — | Minister's account. (Money delivered to the Bursar.) |
| 46. | 51 | 2 Rich. II. | Minister's Acct. |
| 47. | 6-7 | Rich. II. | Account of the Sacristan of Burcester. |
| 48. | { | 8-9 | — Ditto |
| | | 9-10 | — Ditto. |
| | | 10-11 | — Ditto. |
| 49. | { | 12-13 | — Court Roll of Dadyngton. |
| | | 13 | — |
| 50. | { | 15 and 16 | — Court Rolls. |
| | | 16 | — |
| 51. | | — | A very detailed account of the House of Burcester. Much decayed. |
| 52. | 23 and 1 | Hen. IV. | Minister's account. |
| 53. | 1-2 | — | Bailiff's account. Stratton Audele. |
| 54. | 7-9 | — | Minister's account. Wreckwyke. |
| 55. | 8-9 | — | Account of the Sacristan. |
| 56. | 9-10 | — | Bursar's account. |
| 57. | 11-12 | — | Bailiff's Account. Stratton Audele. Rectory of Stratton. |
| 58. | 13-14 | — | Account of the Prior and Sub-Prior of Burcester. Goods. |
| 59. | 14 | — | Rental. Stratton Audley. |

Bundle 56.

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| 1. | 4-5 | Hen. VI. | Court Roll. Dadyngton in Clyfton and Hempton. |
| 2. | 9-10. | — | Account. Stratton Audley. |
| 3. | 11-12 | — | Account of all the goods of the Priory. |
| 4. | 30-31 | — | Account of the Sub-Prior and Bursar. |
| 5. | 16-17 | — | Account of the Sacristan. |
| 6. | 18-19 | — | Bursar's account. |
| 7. | 25-26 | — | Ditto. |
| 8. | 34-35 | — | Minister's account. |
| 9. | 35-36 | — | Sacristan's account. |
| 10. | Circa | — | Bailiff's account. Burcestre, Dedyngton, Stratton Audley, Takley
Grymmesbury; also expenses of the new Prior's election. |
| 11. | 3 | Edw. IV. | Court Roll, Dadyngton. |
| 12. | 15-16 | — | Reeve's account. Westcot. |
| 13. | 24-25 | Edw. I. | Bursar's account. |
| 14. | | — | Reeve's account, Dadyngton. |
| 15. | 30 (?) | Hen. VI | Sacristan's account. |

These accounts¹ are written upon parchment, in the quaint barbarous Latin of the age, and in the form universally adopted. They were made up yearly at Michaelmas, and, after being examined by two auditors, were presented to the Chapter. In reading them it is well to remember that they are simply records of mere temporal business. Here and there they afford a faint glimpse of the daily life of the monks, but generally they are only concerned with the ordinary management of their property and household. From them a few facts appear.

1.—That a difficulty frequently arose about making the two ends of receipts and expenses meet and agree.² The monks lived up to the extent of their income, so that when any extraordinary burden was laid upon them,³ it could only be borne by incurring a debt.

2.—That large sums of money were continually spent in litigation and gifts. Appeals to Rome, disputes about property, the maintenance of the rights and privileges of the house,⁴ fees to lawyers, and presents to persons of influence to secure their goodwill, and gratuities to servants, are constantly mentioned, and form no unimportant item in the yearly accounts.

3.—That this house, especially in late times, resorted to the expedient, common in those days, of raising money by the granting of corrodies.⁵ A corrody was originally a privilege claimed by the great benefactors of a monastery, and the representatives of the founder's family, of nominating one or more persons to be billeted upon the house, but in degenerate days the monasteries took it upon themselves to grant these privileges, whereby for a sum of money paid down a person might purchase a maintenance or daily diet or an annuity, or some other benefit from their funds, for life, or for a term of years.

To bring the prices mentioned in the following accounts to their present value, it will be not far from the mark, to multiply them by 18 or 20 in the XIIIth, 16 in the XVth and 15 or 12 in the XVIth century.

BURSAR'S ACCOUNTS.

The Bursars received all the rents and other profits, and paid all the expenses of the monastery, except such as were specially appropriated. Dr. Kennett mentions having seen one of their accounts of the year 1277,⁶ but the earliest one now preserved in the Record Office is the following :

¹ Some later accounts are given in Mr. Dunkin's Appendix to his History of the Bullingdon and Ploughley Hundreds.

² In the XVIth century nearly every monastery in England was in debt. Proofs of this house borrowing small sums of money, and delaying the payment of its dues, occur in the Bursar's accounts of 1296, 1320, 1327, 1328, 1346, 1409, 1412, 1440, 1452.

³ Subsidies to the king are mentioned in 1316, 1317, 1320, "1522. An annual grant to be made by the spirituality for the king's personal expenses in France for the recovery of the crown of the same." The Prior of Burcestre is mentioned as paying £40. (Calendar of State papers, Letters and Papers Hen. VIII, vol. iii. part 2, No. 2483.

⁴ A dispute about one of the monks in 1301 cost £16 9s. 1d. See also Bursar's accounts of 1327.

There was scarcely a manor in England that had not occasion, on an average of at least once a century, to put in an appearance in some Law Court in some matter involving litigation.

⁵ See Bursar's accounts, 1303, 1409, 1433, 1440.

"We sold to Adam de Pirie, citizen of Worcester, and Gunnilda his wife, for £50, one monks loaf, two flasks of the best beer, and one dish of meat or fish, for their lives only." Anno 1302. (Annals of Worcester monastery.)

⁶ An. MCCLXXVII.—I find preserved in a long slip of parchment a register for this year of the receipts and dues of the Priory of Burcester, given in by their respective stewards, and by their other officers, granger, cook, sacrist and bursars, before the Sub-Priors, William de Thornberg, Walter de Oxon and Stephen de Oxon, deputed auditors; whereby it appears by the bursar's accounts that their receipts did exceed their expenses £25 6s. 5d. The title is this: "Registrum priorat. Berncester de ano R. R. E. quinto."

The names of those places for which their stewards accounted are Clifton, Sutton, Caversfield, Westkote, Arnkote, Beaumund. (Kennett's Par. Ant.)

A.D. 1296.

*Receipts at the Bursary from the Feast of St. Michael in the 24th year of King Edward,
to the same Feast in the 25th year of Edward.*

Receipts of rent of the term of St. Michael.—From Clifton, 60s.; Curtlington, 27s. 10d.; Tackele, 29s. 5d.; Wendlebury, 10s. 6d.; Burencestre, 27s. 4d.; Stratton, 9s. 7½d.; Caverfeud, 15s. 10d.; Wrecchewik, 41s. 10d.; Westcote, 9s. 1d.; Oxford, 7s.; Cleidon, 6d.—Sum, 11*l.* 16s. 11½d.

Receipts of aids.—From Caverfeud, 26s. 8d.; Curtlington, 8s.; Clifton, 53s. 4d.; Wrecchewik, 75s.; 5s. are wanted, because the debtors are dead.—Sum, 8*l.* 3s.

Rents of the term of St. Thomas Apostle.—From Caverfeud, 13s. 7½d.; Stratton, 6s. 4½d.; Burencestre, 22d.; from Simon the serving man of Bigenhull, 6d.; from Clifton, 64s.—Sum, 4*l.* 6s. 3¾d.

Rents of the term of The Annunciation.—From Clifton, 65s. by tally; Wrecchewik, 41s. 7d.; Tackele, 29s. 5d.; Stratton, 8s. 7½d.; Wendlebury, 10s.; Burencestre, 25s. 2d.; Caverfeud, 15s. 5¾d.; Curtlintone, 28s. 10½d.; Westcote, 9s.; Oxford, 7s.—Sum, 12*l.* 1¾d.

Rents of the term of St. John the Baptist.—From Stratton, 6s. 4½d.; Caversfeud, 12s.; Burencestre, 23½d.; Clifton, 65s.—Sum, 4*l.* 5s. 4d.

Entry of land.—Received on Sunday after All Saints from the reeve of Clifton, for an entry of land in Dadinton, 30s. by tally. For the entry of five acres of land in Caverfeud, 5s.; to wit, from Robert, son of Alice. On St. Benedict the Abbot, from the reeve of Clifton, for an entry of land in Dadintone, 20s.; to wit, from one Kyng.—Sum, 58s.

Received on the eve of St. Nicholas, for the soul of Agnes Cavel of Burencestre, 15d. On the Conversion of St. Paul, from Walter de Grendon of Oxford, 13*l.* 6s. 8d. of the gift of the said Walter. Thursday after Purification, for the soul of Alice Terry of Brackele, 13s. 4d. From Burgeis of Holemere, for the procuration of Cardinals, 3s. 8d. From moneys remaining of the rent of the Lord John de Guldeford, 7s. 5d. From the farm of Cumpstone, on Sunday after St. Elphege, 40s. by tally. On St. John ante portam Latinam, from one horse sold, 40s.; to wit, from the executors of Master Ralph de Freningham. On morrow of St. John and Paul, from wool sold, 15*l.* 6s. 6d. Morrow of St. James, from the farm of Cumpston, 4*l.* 13s. 4d., without tally.—Sum, 38*l.* 12s. 2d.

At the Coena Domini, received from the reeve of Clifton for two tenths granted to the King from the same, 10s. 7d.; from Wrecchewik, 7d.; on translation of St. Thomas Martyr, from hay sold at Clifton, 4*l.* 2s. 8d.—Sum, 4*l.* 13s. 10d.

Sum of the whole Receipt, 86*l.* 15s. 9d.

Expenses.

Surplusage, 63s. 3½d.

First, on the day of St. Michael delivered to the Lord Ralph de Audiburn, for corn (bladum) by him to be sown, 66s. 8d.; to Adam, son of Peter de Wendlebury, for rent of the term of St. Michael, 3s. 8½d.; delivered to the Vicar of Caversfeud, for an old

debt, 10s.; for salt for store, 18s. 4d.; for a pail (?carencuullo) bought for the Prior's chamber, 12d.; for spicery bought of John Abbot for the coming of the Archdeacon of Oxford in his visitation, 4s. 6d.; delivered to the Lord Ralph de Meriton, the Prior's Chaplain, for expenses at Oxford at times on the Prior's affairs, 14d.; delivered to Roger the free mason for his stipend, 14d.; to William Cumper for stipend, 6d.; on the translation of St. Hugh the Bishop, delivered to two procurators for expenses to Northampton, for the whole Archdeaconry of Oxford, 3½d.; delivered to the Lady of Bigenhull for rent of the term aforesaid, 9d.—Sum, 6*l.* 13s. 2½d.

Delivered to the Lord Richard la Vache for rent of the term aforesaid, 36s. 8d.; on the day of St. Dionysius, in mutton and in fowls bought for the guests, 8d.; ale for the same, 16d.; Paris candles¹ bought for the Prior's chamber, 9d.; to Henry de Boeles for his rent of the said term, 12s. 6d.; to Walter the free mason for his stipend, 10s.; to John the Summoner (citator) for oats bought of him for seed, 23s.; to Richard de Curtlington, for rent, 12d.; to John de Cotesford and Inetta de Curtlington, for rent, 12d.; to Master Roger Mimekan for his fee, of the term of St. Michael, 7s.; on Monday after the feast of St. Luke, in expenses of the Prior at the synod (sidum) of Aylesbury, 8d.; on the Wednesday following, in expenses of the Prior at the County Court of Ailesbury, 8d.; for the clothing of the Prior's esquire, and of Thomas Page, and of two grooms of the Prior, against the Nativity last, 45s.—Sum, 7*l.* 0s. 7d.

On Friday next following, in eels bought for the guests, and in menuse,² 15d. On Saturday following, in fish bought at Oxford³ for a day of affection (pro quodam die amoris) between the Prior and the Lord Alan Plokenet, 18d.; to John the Carpenter, for stipend of the same term, 5s.; on All Saints' eve, for corn bought at Wdestock, 8s.; eggs bought for the decease⁴ of the Lord Philip Basset, 6½d.; on Sunday after All Saints, in pork and larks bought for the coming of the Lord Richard Daimari and John Hubert and others, 9d.; delivered to Mundy of Wdestok for his fee of the term of St. Michael, 6s. 8d.—Sum, 8*l.* 15s. 8½d.

(In the margin):— "Also for one travelling cloak for the use of the Prior and" (unfinished).

On Sunday after St. Andrew, to J. de Asthale, for cheese bought for the Convent, 5s.; Paris candle for the Sub-Prior's lamp, at times, 3d.; a tunic for Brother Yvo, 2s. 6d. On Saturday after St. Lucia, for expenses of the Prior, the Lord Peter Matslore, John Hubert, the Lord Richard de Wendlebury, and many others, before the Justices at Oxford 10s. On Monday after Exaltation of Holy Cross, to two grooms of the Prior, for their shoes, 12d.; to the junior groom of the Prior's stable, 4d. for the same; to the wife of the Sheriff of Oxford, of the Prior's gift, 6s. 8d.; viz: on the eve of St. Thomas Apostle.

¹ Candles were exported from Paris, as well as manufactured at home. These candles, called occasionally white, appear to have been more or less refined. (Roger's Agricultural Prices, vol. i. chapter viii.)

² Another kind of fish, perhaps a variety of cod.

³ The fish purchased in Oxford and Bicester was probably salted or kippered.

During a considerable part of each year fish was an important

article of food. Stores of herrings, and various kinds of stock fish were regularly purchased in the autumn, salted, and laid up for winter consumption. Herrings were purchased by tale, by the 1000, or sometimes by measure, the cade or the hundred; other fish singly, or by the dozen; eels generally by the stick.

⁴ For use in this year's commemoration of him, as one of the benefactors of the Priory. The same entry constantly occurs.

On the day of the said St. Thomas, to two procurators for the whole Archdeaconry, for their expenses to the Parliament at London, 7½d.—Sum, 26s. 4½d.

On the same day, to the clerks of the Sheriff of Oxford, of the Prior's gift, 5s. 4d. On the same day, for lead bought for the Lavatory, 12s. 8d.; for dishes (discis) bought for the kitchen, for the Convent, 2s.; to William Cumper for stipend, 6d.; to the Lady of Bigehull, of rent¹ for the term of the Lord's Nativity. On Sunday in the Nativity, for lime bought, 20d.; on the day of the Lord's Circumcision, to Roger the mason for stipend, 18d.; on the morrow of Epiphany, to Henry de Boeles, for his rent of the term of St. Thomas the Apostle, 12s. 6d.; on same day, to Galvanus at Sutton, for corn bought, 49s. 2d.—Sum, 4l. 5s. 10d.

To the wife of the Sheriff of Oxford of the Prior's gift, on the day of St. Paul's Conversion, 6s. 8d.; to Geoffrey the Sheriff's clerk, 6s. 8d.; for timber for enclosure outside the church door,² 4s.; the Prior's expenses at London, at the congregation of the Lord Archbishop, 16s. 6d.; to the Lord Ralph the Sacristan, for his expenses at Picchelsthorpe, in the autumn preceding, 8s.; for mending the cups³ (ciphorum) of the Prior's chamber, and for cups bought for the Prior's banquet (convivium) in the Nativity, 5s. 2d.; the Prior's expenses at Oxford on the day of the said Conversion, 13d.; to the Lord Richard de Wendlebury, of an old debt, 20s.—Sum, 68s.

On the eve of the purification, for oats, 40s. for seed; for a palfrey bought of Robert Wymenhale of Oxford, 4l.; eggs and pork for the Prior's banquet, 15d.; to Thomas Page, for his shoes, 4d.; delivered at Oseney for procuration of two cardinals, 32s. 6d., and for the acquittance of the said money, 1d.; delivered at Oseney, for the King's taxation of the land of Lord Richard la Vache, 3s. 9d.; on the second Sunday after the Purification, in pork for the coming of the Lord J. de Boscho, Justice, 6d.; expenses of a groom seeking the Prior at Wdeford with the Justiciary, 4d.—Sum, 7l. 18s. 9d.

Gloves of woollen cloth and of leather, for the Prior, 6½d.; on the eve of St. Matthew, to the Prior for his expenses to the Parliament of Salisbury,⁴ 13s. 4d.; for mending an antiphoner⁵ of the choir, 11d.; on the first Sunday of Lent, to the Steward, for expenses in seeking the Sheriff of Buckingham in the County of Bedford, and for his expenses to London, 3s.; on the same day, in a pittance to the Convent for the soul of Alice Terry of Brackele, 13s. 4d.; on Monday following, in fish bought for the coming of the Lord Roger Brabecun, Justice of the Lord the King, 4s.; the Prior's gifts to the household (familie) of the said Justice, 10s.—Sum, 45s. 1½d.

Herrings bought, to wit, 200, for the soul of Master Adam,⁶ Archdeacon of Oxford, 20d.; fish bought for the coming of the Lord J. de Boscho, Justice, 2s.; to Roger the

¹ Sum not entered, but it is clear from the total given that it was 6d.

² Because the W. door of the Church opened into the Close, in which cattle were occasionally kept.

³ Made of metal or wood.

⁴ There was a Parliament at Salisbury in 25 Edw. I. (See Dugdale's Summons.)

⁵ "Antiphoner," a kind of Psalm book, containing the usual church music, with the notes marked, as we still see them in the old mass books, and so called from the alternate repetitions and responses. (Halliwell's Dictionary.)

⁶ "Adam de Edmundsburgh" was Archdeacon of Oxford from 1223 to 1234, and probably still later. Le Neve's Fasti.

freemason for his stipend, 12d.; delivered at Cestreton, for amercement for a horse of the Prior's taken in the meadow of the Rector of Ascherugge, 6d. On the morrow of St. Cuthbert the Bishop, delivered at London for the expenses of the Prior before the Archbishop, 26s.; on Saturday following, to Roger the freemason for his stipend, 2s.; white fur (forura) for the Prior's hood, 8½d.; to Adam, son of Peter de Wendlebury, for rent of the term of the Annunciation, 3s. 8d.; wax and pitch to make cement, 5d.—Sum, 36s. 6d.

A pittance to the Convent for the soul of Master Adam, Archdeacon of Oxford, 8s.; to William Cumper for his stipend, 6d., stone bought at Blockesham for the seats of the church (ad sedes ecclesiæ), 16d.; delivered at Oxford for green wax of a certain assize for the Rector of Ascherugge, 6s. 8d., in a plea between the Prior and Rector of Ascherugge concerning Wrecchewik, by tally; on Sunday following, to William of St. Albans, clerk, of moneys due to him of the debt of Isabella Bukerel, 66s. 8d., by acquittance; and in the expenses of a groom carrying the said money, 1d.; linen cloth (tela) bought for the use of the Lord Thomas de Baiwyre, 2s. 8d., by the Prior's command.—Sum, 4l. 6s. 3d.

On the eve of Palms delivered to the Lady of Bigenhull for rent of the term of the Annunciation, 9d., and of the term of Easter, 1d.; on same day to Roger, freemason, for his stipend, 12d.; to Ric. de Canne for rent of the term of the Annunciation, 12d.; to John de Cotesford and Inetta de Curtlinton, for rent, 12d.; to William, son of William of the same, for rent, ½d.; on the supper day in the poor's maundy, 23d.; Easter Tuesday, to Roger, freemason, 20d.; lime (calce), 3s. 4d.; to the lord Ric. la Vache, for rent of the term of the Annunciation, 36s. 8d.; to Henry de Boeles for the same rent, 12s. 6d.; Thursday following, pork and veal, 6d., for the Prior's chamber.—Sum, 60s. 5½d.

Delivered at London on the first Sunday after Easter (quasi modo geniti),¹ for the Prior's expenses, for a plea for the entry of the Lord the King in the Manor of Dadinton, 33s. 4d.; to John the Carpenter for his stipend of the term of the Annunciation, 5s.; morrow of St. Mark, for suit of the Hundred of Sutton, 2s.; eve of Sts. Philip and James, veal for guests coming unexpectedly (supervenientibus) from the official chapter in the parish church of Burncestre, 5d.; Wednesday after the first Sunday after Easter, delivered to the Exchequer at London, for a fine made for having the King's protection and to have their own lands again, 13l.; on St. John ante portam Latinam, to a certain procurator of the executors of Master Ralph de Freningham, for a certain obligation of ten marks, 60s.—Sum 18l. 9d.

Eggs bought for the decease of Fulk Basset, 5½d.; to Master Roger Mimekan, for his fee of the term of the Annunciation, 7s.; on St. Osith's day, for lime bought at Wodestok, 3s. 4d.; on translation of St. Edmund Conf. to the Dean of Oxford (and ?) two preaching friars, messengers to the Court of Rome, for their expenses, 2s.; on Sts. John and Paul to Geoffrey, Clerk of the Sheriff of Oxford, of the Prior's gift, 6s. 8d.; one pail (carencuullo) for carrying lime, 12d.; on St. Edburga's day, to a certain minstrel, of the Prior's gift, 6d., by J. de Asthallee; on Sts. Peter and Paul, for necessities of the house to be bought at Bukingeham against the autumn, 13s. 4d.—Sum, 33s. 3½d.

¹ The initial words of the Introit.

To Adam Burgeis, for the Prior's expenses at Holmere towards London, at times, 20s.; a black horse bought of Walter de Grendon of Oxford, 20s.; iron work (feramento) bought of Thomas de Heiford, 10s.; 13 qrs. of drage (buckwheat, dragium) bought at Midelinton of the corn of the Lord Earl, 28s. 2d.; to Henry de Boeles for rent of the term of St. John Baptist, 12s. 6d.; to William Cumper, for stipend of the same term, 6d.; on translation of St. Benedict, for corn bought at Suttone, to wit, drage, 8*l.* 16s. 6d.; to William Cuprest for weeding corn, 2s.—Sum, 13*l.* 9s. 8d.

To the Lord Henry de Tschefeld,¹ Sheriff of Oxford, for green wax for the Prior, for Robert de Anna, for Ric. le Wyte, for Roger le Lomb of Curtlineton, 17s., as appears by four tallies; to John de Cotesford, of an old debt, 60s.; linen cloth (tela) for the Prior's use, 3s.—Sum, 4*l.*

On Sunday after St. James, at the Arches, London, for the fee of the Judge and procurator, and for the Steward's expenses for the last sentence given concerning the plea of Picchelesthorn, 16s.; a bacon hog (bacone) bought at Aston, 26s. 8d.; on the eve of St. Peter ad vincula, for reaping the corn, 16s.²—Sum, 58s. 8d.

Sum of the whole expense, 94*l.* 3s. 4½d.

So the Bursar of the House owes 7*l.* 7s. 7½d.

The other accounts preserved in the Record Office are as follows:

1301.

Account of Brothers Robert de Anna,³ and Stephen de Oxford, of receipts and expenses by them made of the Bursary of the Priory of Berencestre, in the 29th year of Edward I, from the morrow of St. Michael to the Feast of the Translation of St. Frideswyde next following.

Arrears.—8s. received from Master Richard de Bradewell, of arrears of a certain tenement situate within the east gate of Oxford, on the south side; and they were the arrears of the 28th and 29th years of King Edward, as appears by the acquittance.

Receipts of rents.—13s. 11½d. received from the reeve of Caveresfeud, for rent of the term of St. Andrew; 4s. 10½d. received from the reeve of Stratton, of the term of St. Thomas the Apostle; 2s. 10d. received from Berencestre for the same term (contra messorum)⁴; 14s. 7½d. from the reeve of Grimesbyry; 60s. from the reeve of Clifton; 28s. 6d. from the reeve of Curtlington; 6d. from Simon Germain, of Bigehull.—Sum, 6*l.* 5s. 3½d.

7*l.* received from John de Bloxham, for the farm of Grimesbur(e).

¹ This is an error for Henry de Thisteldene, Sheriff of Oxon from 24 to 28 Edw. I.

² An entry is here obliterated, viz: "On Wednesday after Nativity of B. Mary, to William Rnsel, procurator of the Arches, London, for his stipend, 10s."

³ This account has already been translated, and published in

Dunkin's "History of Bullingdon and Ploughley Hundreds," appendix No. ii., but in some places incorrectly.

⁴ He is probably the same person as Richard Messor, mentioned just afterwards, and this is the sum put to his account in payment of his arrears.

Receipts of Tithe.—Received of the reeve of Caveresfeud for the King's tenths, 12s. $\frac{1}{4}$ d., by tally; and of the bailiff of Wescote for the same, 5s. $2\frac{1}{4}$ d.; and of the reeve of Grimesbyr(e) 3s. 4d.; and of the keeper of Holmere, 7s. 4d. for the same; and of the reeve of Clifton, 28s.; and 24s. 9d. received from Gilbert le Duck.—Sum, 4*l.* os. $7\frac{3}{4}$ d.

Received of 1 oxhide sold for 2s. 11d.

And of John de Curtlinton for sheep skins, 2s. 6d. of the residue of the autumn. (This item is struck out.)

Pannage.—Received 2s. from the reeve of Stratton, for the pannage of hogs. 18d. from the reeve of Caveresfeud, for the same.—Sum, 3s. 6d.

Perquisites and fines.—10s. received from Lord Walter de Quenton; 20s. from John Koc of Grimesbyre, for the fine of one virgate of land; 10s. from the reeve of Clifton, for the fine of Adam Sparruwe; 2s. from William Hardy of Wrechewik, for the fine of one acre of land; 6s. 8d. from John of the Infirmary, for the fine of a certain tenement in which he dwells; 13s. 4d. received from Walter, son of Osmund, for the fine of a certain tenement in which Richard Messor formerly dwelt; and 20s. from John Wylard, reeve of Clifton, for a fine and arrears of account of the same year aforesaid.—Sum, 4*l.* 2s.

Sum of the whole receipt, 22*l.* 2s. 6d.

Expenses of the Bursary from the morrow of St. Michael, 29 Edward I, &c.

Surplus of the last account, 35s. 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

Rents resolute.—Paid to the Lord of Bigenhull for rent at the Lord's Nativity, 1d.; and to the Lord of Curtlinton $\frac{1}{4}$ d. for rent of assize of 1 virgate of land in the same vill; and to Henry de Bowel of the same, 10s. 6d. by one acquittance.—Sum 10s. $7\frac{1}{4}$ d.

Delivered at Oseney for a certain yearly pension of tithes of our demesnes of Burencestre, 30s, by one acquittance; and for the procuration of the Bishop of Spoleto (Spolitani), $7\frac{1}{4}$ d.

Expenses of the Household, and purchase of stock.—Fish bought at Oxford by Richard de la March, 2s., for the use of the Prior and Convent; bread bought in the market place (foro) of Berencestre, for the coming of Adam de Tusmere, Master R. de Wendlebury, the parson of Herdewik, and others, 6d.; fresh fish bought for the same persons, 28d.; ¹ in ale ² bought for the Prior and Convent on St. Michael's day, 4d.; in ridge tiles (crestis, or crostis) bought for the Prior's Chamber and for other houses of the Court, 2s.; eels bought for Brother Nicholas de Stratton and Gilbert (? Gillibero) the Bailiff and others, on Friday next after the feast of St. Jerome, 8d.; ale bought for one boon-day of the ploughs, 15d.; in keys for the locks (lacas) of the chamber, 1d.; and of other houses of the Court, 15d.; parch-

¹ The price of fresh fish was high, especially pike. The earliest date at which pike are mentioned is 1277, when they were found in the Thames, near Lambeth. Those bought for the Priory here, came probably from the Cherwell, from the Gosford piscary, the Cherwell pike being in mediæval times of as great repute as now. (Prof. Roger's Agl. Prices.)

² There is constant mention of the purchase of ale in these accounts, on occasions of especial feasting, and the consumption of it must have been very great. It was not the bright, sparkling beverage of the present day, but a sweet, glutinous, highly-spiced liquor, so thick and full of dregs that the drinker was obliged to filter it through his teeth; quite devoid of hops, which were very unpopular for a long time after their introduction.

ment and ink bought for the affairs of the house at times, 13d.; ale bought at another boon-day of the ploughs, 15d.; fresh fish bought on Friday after the feast of St. Frideswide, for the coming of John Hubert, Richard de Kalu (?) and others, 29d.; almonds on account of the same persons, 2d.; "in pulvere calang," (?) 2d.; wine bought at Oxford on account of the same persons, 16d.; for herrings, 4½d.; pike (*lupi aquatici*), perch, roach, bought for stocking the fishpond (or ponds), by the Prior's command, 32d.; poultry, bought for the coming of Matilda de Wans, niece (*neptis*) of the Earl of Lincoln, 7d.; one ox, bought for making a gift to the Lord Earl of Lincoln, 11s. 2d.; delivered to two carters at Wicumbe, for three days in the service of the Earl, 12d.; to a certain carter with one horse, in the service of the same, 6d.; fresh fish, bought for the coming of the Prior of Chetwode, Master Richard de Wendlebury, and others, on the eve of the Apostles, Simon and Jude, 13d.; ale for the same, 2d., and, at another time, ale bought for guests in the Prior's chamber, 9d.; to John Andrew, for an old debt, 6d.; ale bought for two boon-days of the ploughs, by the view of W. de Grange, 30d.; to Thomas le Nappere, for cups bought for the Prior's chamber, for guests, 4d.; eggs bought at the death of Philip Basset, 7d.; five little pike (*pikerell*) bought on Friday next after the Feast of All Saints, for the coming of Robert Gynegone and others, 5d.; fresh fish bought for the coming of John de Cotesford and Richard de Kynebell and to stock the fishponds, 12d., on Friday next after the feast of St. Leonard; 4 cocks [and] hens bought for stock, 2½d.; eels bought on Friday after the feast of St. Edmund, for the coming of Ythel de Kerwent, John de Cotesford, and others, 5d.; perch and roach, 6d.; ale bought on Friday next before the feast of St. Katharine, for the coming of the Lord Thome de Gardin, the Lord William de Scalebroc, and many others, 9d.; wine, 17½d.; herring(s), 12d.; two little pike, 14d.; salmon, 18d.; ginger, 1d.; almonds, 2d.; sea fish, 12d.—Sum, 47s. 7½d.

The Prior's expenses.—Expenses of the Prior at Oxford, at the Synod, on Monday after the feast of St. Michael, 3s. 9d.; one saddle bought there for the Prior's use, 6s. 1d.; one bridle for the same, 14d.; one pair of spurs for the same, 2d.; one pair of shoes, 22d.; woollen stockings for the same, 12d.; repairs of the Prior's shoes, 6d.; a tree (*trussell*), bought for one saddle (*cellam*) of the Prior's stable, 2d.; expenses of the Prior at the county (court) of Oxford, on Thursday next after the feast of St. Denis, 3s.; expenses of the Prior at the county (court) of Eylesbury, on the day of St. Luke the Evangelist, 3s.; expenses of the same at the Synod of Eylesbury, 3s.; Paris candles bought for the Prior's chamber for the guests, with a candlestick, 13d.; one tunic bought for the Prior's use, 4s. 10d.; the Prior's expenses at Wicumbe, at the colloquy to be had with the Lord Earl of Lincoln for 6 d(ays), 8s.; the Prior's expenses before the Bishop at Morton, for the affairs of the house, 6s. 8d.; and in one mat for the Prior's bed, ½d.; night-shoes (slippers) bought for the Prior's use, 12d.; 5 pairs of girdles bought by Robert de la March and by Robert de Anna, 16d.; repair of the Prior's shoes, 5d.; expenses of the Prior, with his four companions, at Thame, before the Bishop of Lincoln, on the day of St. Thomas the Apostle, 3s. 4½d.—Sum of the Prior, 50s. 5d.

Gifts.—Delivered to the Sheriff of Bokingham of the Prior's gift, 6s. 8d.; to the page, a Donet,¹ 3d., of the Prior's gift; to the page, Thomas de Morton, 3d.; to Peter, the chamberlain, of the Prior's gift, 4d.; given to Geoffrey de Padebury, and to Thomas Gulafre, clerks to the Sheriff of Oxford, by the Prior's command, by the hands of brother Richard de Wendlebury, 10s.; to the Sheriff of Oxford, of the Prior's gift, 6s. 8d.; and to the pages of the same, 2s., by view of brother Richard de Wendle-

¹ A Book of Elementary Latin; a Grammar.

bury ; to the Lord Thomas de Gard(ino) and the Lord William de Scalebroc, knights, by the Prior's command, 13s. 4d. ; in the taxation of the fifteenth, and to the clerks taxing the fifteenth, of the Prior's gift, 2s. ; and to the beneficiary¹ of the parish church, of the Prior's gift, 2d., on Tuesday next before the feast of St. Nicholas ; given to a page of the vicar of the parish church, 2d., by the Prior's command ; and to the pages of Master Walter de Foderingheye, 6d., of the Prior's gift ; and to Thomas de Morton, clerk, 3s., of the Prior's gift, by brother Walter de Andet ; and to a certain clerk of the Sheriff, for obtaining a copy of a certain writ, 2d. ; and to the door-keeper (janitor) of the Sheriff, 1d. ; and to the pages of John Hubert, on the day of the Lord's Circumcision, 10d., of the Prior's gift ; and to Donatus, the advocate, 3s.—Sum, 49s. 5d.

Stipends.—Delivered to Robert Clerk, the Prior's esquire, for his stipend, 4s. ; to the son of William Cumpere, the tiler, for his stipend, from the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula to the feast of St. Michael, 2s. ; to Walter, the mason, for the last part of his stipend for the Prior's chamber, 2s. ; to John, the carpenter, for his stipend of the term of St. Michael, 5s. ; to two weeders, for their stipend, 6d. ; to Edmund de Wodestok, for his fee of the preceding year, Sum, 31s. 6d.

Delivered to Gilbert Duk, bailiff of Ernicote, by the Prior's command, 20s.

Clothing (vestur).—Two tunics for two converts, by the Prior's command, 8s. 6d. ; and one tunic for the steward's page, by the Prior's command, 4s. 6d. ; and in two robes bought for the use of Donatus, the attorney, and Robert Clerk, 29s.—Sum, 42s.

Expenses of the Canons.—Expenses of brother Richard de Wendlebury and Edmund de Wodestok at Oxford, about despatching the affairs of the House, 2s. ; expenses of brother Ralph de Meriton at Northampton, before the Bishop of Lincoln, to show the confirmation of our churches, 3s. ; expenses of the said brother Ralph, on Wednesday next after the feast of St. Leonard, at N., before the Bishop's clerks, for showing the confirmations, 3s. ; expenses of brother Ric. de Wendleb(ury) at the Great Hundred (Court) of Sutton, 6d., by the Prior's command ; expenses of brother Walter de Andeb and Thomas de Morton at Oxford, with the Earl's letters to the Abbot and Convent of Oseney, and to the Sheriff, for the tithes of Ardinton, 2s., and this on the eve of St. Thomas the Apostle ; delivered to Thomas de Baywrtthe, 4s. 5½d., by the Prior's command, for the debts of the time when he had the custody of the Manor of Stratton ; expenses of brother Robert de Anna at Oxford, ou Sunday next before the feast of St. Nicholas, about the affairs of the House, 10d. ; expenses of brother Richard de Wend(lebury) and brother Ralph de And at Otheleston (Opeleston), by the Bishop's command, 9s. 2d.—Sum, 24s. 11½d.

Costs of the plea of Curtl(inton).—Expenses of brother Richard de Wendlebury to York, on Wednesday next after the feast of St. Michael, and for 12 days following, for our plea of Curtlinton, 48s. 4d. ; expenses of the Prior and the aforesaid brother R. at Oxford, for having colloquy with the Lord Roger de Brabason, and with others of the county, for the same plea, 4s. 2d. ; to William Waltehef, for despatching business in the inquisition of the same plea, 20s., of the Prior's gift ; to Richard de Kalne, for the same, of the Prior's gift, 3s. 4d. ; to John de Croxford, 6s. 8d., for his fee ; expenses of Walter de And at Bronddesbisk, to have colloquy

¹ The Clerk.

with Master Richard de Abindon, for the inquisition of the aforesaid plea, 12d.; expenses of Richard de la March at Brondesbisk and at Abindon, seeking the aforesaid Master R. on two occasions, 19d.; expenses of the Prior at Cronmersye, for the inquisition of the same plea, 11*l*. 4*s*. 10*d*.; expenses of Walter de And to York, for the same plea, 20*s*.—Sum, 16*l*. 9*s*. 1*d*.

Pannage.—Delivered to John, the reeve of the Lord Earl, for pannage of pigs at Bernwode, 9*d*.

Foreign expenses.—Ale bought on Wednesday next before the feast of St. Andrew, for the coming of the Sheriff of Oxford, William Walteschf, Roger Bovetun, and others, 12*d*.; wine bought at Oxford, 15*d*.; salmon, 12*d*., by view of the cellarer; sea-fish bought for the use of the Prior with guests staying (perhendinantes) at Clifton, 12*d*.; swine bought at Brack, 8*d*.; two pike bought on Friday next after the feast of St. Lucia, for stock, by the Prior's command, 14*d*.; salmon and hard fish bought for the coming of the Prior of Loffeld and Lord John Fitz John, 6*d*.; for arraying¹ (arratione) timber at Brack, by John the carpenter, 1*d*.; eels bought on Friday next before the feast of St. Hilary, for the coming of William Waldesef and others, 7*d*.; ale bought for the coming of Master Geoffrey Maliesheye, 5*d*.; two mullets bought for the Lord of Wlverton and others, 8*d*.; pigs' flesh bought by William the cook, for the coming of the Sheriff of Oxford, 10*d*., and he did not come; calves' and pigs' flesh bought for the coming of Master de Aynho, 16*d*., and he did not come; fresh fish bought on Friday next after the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, for the coming of John de Cotesford, Thomas de Morton, and others, 6*d*.; and in two great augers (perforatores) bought for the carpenter, 18*d*.; and to Arras for half an ox's carcass, 1*d*.; calves' flesh bought on Tuesday next after the feast of the Purification of St. Mary, for the coming of John Hubert and others, 4*d*.; cocks (and) hens for the same, 10*d*.—Sum, 13*s*. 9*d*.

Purchase of Stock.—Salt bought for the kitchen, by the view of Thomas de Baywrthe, 38*s*. 6½*d*.—Sum, 38*s*. 6½*d*.

Delivered to the Grange.—Delivered to Walter de Grange for iron and steel (assero), and for the smith's stipend, 20*s*., at two times; to the same at another time, 8*s*. for the same; and to the same, 3*s*. 7*d*., for white leather and dung (fimis) bought; and delivered to the same, 7*s*. 7½*d*., for the purpose of shoeing (horses) (ferrator).—Sum, 39*s*. 2½*d*.

Four pikes (lupi aquatici) bought at Oxford on the day of the Massacre of the Innocents, to make a present to the Lord Earl, 8*s*. 10*d*., by the Lord Walter de And; and, on the same day, for his expenses, 5*d*.; and to the Lady Countess, by the same, 40*s*., by the Prior's command.

Expenses of the Prior at the County (Court) of Oxford, ou Thursday next before the Purification, 2*s*. 8*d*.; one pair of shoes for the Prior's use, 2*s*. 4*d*.; expenses of brother Adam, the cellarer, at two times at Oxford, for the plea of Kertlent(on), 14*d*.; expenses of Robert, the clerk, in essoing² the Prior at the Court of Brehulle, 3*d*.; expenses of brother Ralph de Meriton at London, for having a colloquy with the procurator of the Cardinal of Naples (procur Card Neopol), 4*s*.; stockings (calig) bought for the use of brother Yvo, 6½*d*.; planks (tabul) bought for the water-mill, 4*s*. 6*d*.—Sum, 15*s*. 5½*d*.

Sum of the sums of all the expenses, 41*l*. 16*s*. 9*d*. Aud so the expenses exceed the receipts in 19*l*. 14*s*. 3*d*.

¹ Putting in order, preparing.

² Essoin, an excuse for not appearing in answer to a summons.

1302.—(Title lost by mutilation.)

Rents from various places (named), 12*l.* 11*s.* 13¼*d.*

Perquisites and Fines.—47*s.* 8*d.* (one of the items is 6*s.* 8*d.* de Will'o Sottye for redeeming his service, (pro. redempt nativit.)

Sale of Stock, viz.,—2 oxen, 28*s.*

Sum of the Sums of the whole receipt, 19*l.* 17*s.* 11¾*d.*

Expenses.

Surplus from preceding account, 19*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*

Rents resolute, 19*s.* 7*d.*

Delivered at Oseneye for a certain yearly pension to the Dean, 30*s.*

Expenses of the Prior.—Expenses of the Prior at Holemere to London, at times, going and returning, 3*s.* 11*d.*; his expenses at Oxford for the plea of the Monk of Kertlenton, 4*s.*; his expenses at Wanetynge and Walygford for the same plea, 19½*d.*; his expenses at London for divers affairs to be spoken about with the Earl Hugh Despencer for treating of peace with the Procurator[s], 40*s.*; by view of brother Ralph de Aldebourn.—Sum, 49*s.* 0½*d.*

Expenses of clothing, 6*s.* 8*d.*

Expenses of the Canons.—Expenses of Brother Ralph de Meriton, at Opple, before the Bishop of Lincoln, 4*s.*; expenses at "le vis" to speak with the Lord Hugh Despencer for the plea of Dadington, 3*s.*; expenses of other Brothers. To brother Walter de Aldebury, by the Prior's command, 20*s.* to the Roman Court.—Sum, 34*s.*

Purchase of Stock (items given), 45*s.* 2½*d.*

Expenses of fish and flesh bought to entertain divers persons (named). In the poor's maundy at the Lord's Supper, 2*s.* Delivered to the Lord Subprior to distribute among the brethren, 8*s.*, for the pittance of Adam, formerly Archdeacon of Oxford.—Sum, 20*s.* 5¾*d.*

Moneys given to various persons, 24*s.*

Pike bought at Oxford by brother Walter de Aldebury for making a present to the Lord Earl of Lincoln, 11*s.* 4*d.* For a present made to Master Ric. de Abington, 8*s.* 2*d.* Stipends, 8*s.* 4*d.*

Expenses for smith's work, &c.; for 10,000 herrings delivered to the kitchen, 66*s.* 8*d.*—Sum, 117*s.* 0½*d.*

Total expenses, 45*l.* 23¼*d.*, exceeding the receipts by 25*l.* 3*s.* 11½*d.*

1303.—(There is no title to this roll.)

Mem. that the office of Bursar was assigned to Ralph de Meriton and Stephen de Oxford, on Friday next after the feast of the Annunciation of the Bl. Mary in 31, Edw. [I], until the f. of St. Thomas, the apostle, next ensuing.

The same render account of 6*s.* 4*d.* received of the rent(s) of Burencestre of the term of St. John the Baptist by the term "contra Cuprest."¹ Also 1½*d.* "sn?"²

¹ The name Wm. Cuprest occurs in the accounts of 1291.

² Probably "sine termino" i.e. without mention of the term, or period of time, to which it belongs.

Moneys received from reeves, &c.—8s. 4½d. of the oblation of St. Edburga, besides the oblations conferred on the brethren; 20l. from Robert, the Miller of Langeton for his corrody; 9l. from William de Eynesham, the porter; 12l. 12s. received for 2 sacks and 4 stone of wool, price of the stone 4s. 6d.; 66s. 8d. for sheep sold; 6l. from Gilbert Waleys de Wrechewyk.

Of fines.—3s. from Joan ad Foutem de Takkele, for marrying her daughter; 6s. from Robert Holton, of Takkele, for a certain writ which the Prior obtained for him.—Sum, 9s.

Rents of St. Michael, 31 Edw. [I].—26s. 4d. of the rents of Burencestre; 41s. 6d. of the rents of Wreckwick; 8s. 4½d. of Stratton; 15s. 2¼d. of Kaveresfeld; 10s. of Wendlebury; 6d. of Cleydon; 29s. 5d. of Tackley; 48s. 5d½. of Kyrtlington; 60s. 4d. of Clifton; 9s. of Westcote.—Sum, 12l. 9s. 1¾d.

Of aid.—4l. received of the aid of Wrechewyke; 26s. 8d. of Kaveresfeld and Stratton; 33s. 10d. of the aid of Clifton.—Sum, 7l. 6d.

Of perquisites.—From Hugh Hardy, 20d.; from William Serich, 20d., from Hugh Foul, 19d.; from Hugh Aynod, 6d.; also 2s. received for the cure (emendatione) of a certain ox injured (deteriorati) by the men of the town.—Sum. 7s. 5d.

Received 6s. from John Wylard for herbage; 65s. 5d. for the hay of Clifton.—Sum, 71s. 5d. 3s. received from Walter de Grange, and 13d. from the same by the hands of Adam de Oxford.—Sum, 4s. 1d.

Sum of the whole receipt, 90l. 10s. 10¼d.

Of repayment of rent.—Delivered at Osene, 30s. for the term of the Annunciation; at Bygehull, 10d. for the same term; to Richard de las. 8d.; to the Lord of Kyrlington, ½d., of the term of St. John the Baptist; to Henry de Boweles, 12s. 6d., of the same term; Delivered at Osene, 30s., of the term of St. Michael 31 Edw. [I]; to the Lord of Kyrtlington, ½d.; to the Lord of Bikehull, 10d.; to Henry de Boweles 12s. 6d.; to John de Codesford, 12s.; to Richard de Calne, 12d.; to Richard de la Veche, 36s. 8d.; alsos. 8½d. to the Lord of Wendlebury.

In the poor's maundy on the day of preparation, 2s.

Expenses of the Canons.—Of Adam de Oxford, at Oxford, when he carried the rent of the Annunciation.; to a page going to the Abbot of Leicester for the office of visitation committed to him, 12d. (?).; expenses of Robert de Kent, at Oxford, for the synod after Hokkeday, 12d.; at Dunstable, 4d.; to a page going to Bemund,¹ 3d.; Expenses of Robert de Kent. at Oxford, 8d.; expenses of John de la Vesterne, at Oxford, 6d., for the Prior's affairs; expenses of Richard de Wendlebury, for 15 days while he visited, 5s.; expenses of Robert de Kent for the synod, at Oxford, after the feast of St. Michael, 12d.—Sum, 14s. 2d.

Foreign Expences.—Two quarts of salt, 4s. 8d.; for boards for mending the doors of the grange of Clifton, 8d., and for boards for mending the doors of the Sheepfold, 7d.; 1lb. of figs and "reyzens" for Master R. de Brey, 1d.; ale bought for the Offic[ial] about the beginning of Lent, 5d., which were in arrear until the f. of Easter.; eels for Master Gilfred

¹ The Priory estate at Little Missenden was called Beaumont.

on the day when peace was treated of between the Cardinal and us; calf's flesh for Master Robert Patrie and others, $4\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and ink for necess[aries], 19d.; fish and other things bought for Richard Damery on Saturday next after Hokkedi, 13d.; candle of Parys for the Prior.; 8 quarts of lime bought, 3s.; for cutting the cloth of one cape and three robes for the pages, 10d.; 2 bridles bought for the Prior, and for mending the saddle, 3s. 2d.; to the carters to Scotland, 13s. 4d.; fish bought for the Marshal [of] H. Despenser, 3d.; Malmsey (?) (Menuseya) for the Lord H. Despencer, 14d.; ale for the same, 2s. 6d.; 1 little pike for stock, 6d.; fish for John Huberd and others, on Friday next before Pentecost, 13d.; ale for the same persons, 20d.; wine, 16d.; sauce (salsa), 1d.; calves' flesh on Thursday, and on the day of Pentecost for the same persons, 16d.; ale for the visitation of the Chapter General, 6d.; $6\frac{1}{2}$ d. for the second course of the kitchen, on Sunday next after the feast of St. Edburga; ale for Master W. D. Fodering [Foderinghay] on the day of Holy Trinity, 3d.; for enclosing the cattle (?) (pro jumemt^a saltand^a), 2s. 6d.; to a page going to Oxford for a swan, 1d.; a sheep at the death of Fulk Bassett, $6\frac{1}{2}$ d.; to Walter, the Prior's chamberlain, 6d., for shoes; one swan bought, 5s.; to Master Robert de Osenye for 1000 laths, 4s. $6\frac{1}{2}$ d.; nails for the laths, 12d.; eels on Friday next after the Translation of St. Benedict, for Walter le Povre and the Rector of Otindon, 4d.; and in salmon for the same, 2d.—Sum, 57s. 7d.

Of Debts.—Delivered to Master John Trivatt, 25s., of an old debt, viz. for flesh bought by (or from?) him; to Ralph de Aldeburn, 2s., of an old debt; for the robes of Robert, the Clerk, and Donatus, 31s.; to William Waldechef, for divers affairs, 9s.; to Henry, the Porter, 4s., for his stipends from the f. of St. John the Baptist, 30 Edw. [I] till Easter next following; to Richard, the Chandler resident, 5s., for his pension for the term of St. Mary, 31 Edw. [I]; to the Schoolmaster (Sclactario),¹ 4s., of the same term for his stipend; to Michael, 6d., for shoes, by the Prior's command; to John, the carpenter, 5s., for the term of St. Michael, 30, Edw. [I]; cloth for a travelling cloak for Richard de Wendlebury; cloth for 3 robes for the Prior's pages, 35s. 4d., by the term, against William de Cilterne, junior.—Sum, 6*l.* — 10d.

To a man of Eynsham taking charge (procuranti) for the porter, 2s., by the Prior's command; to the page of W. de Cumpton, 4d.; to the marshal and barber of H. Despenser, 4s.; to the page of the Sheriff, 2d.; 2d. given to the page of Donatus; 12d. to the messenger of the Lord Bishop of Lincoln bearing corrections; to the page of Giffredus bringing a message to the Prior touching the absolution, 2d.; to a page who kept the warrens (leporarios)² of Robert de Haradon, 6d.—Sum, 8s. 4d.

Ale for the Convent on Thursday next before the Translation of St. Swythun the Confessor, 11d.; ale for Master Robert de Lacy, 4d.; wine, 16d.; 1 pike (pikerell), 8d.; salmon, 4d.; mullets, 2d.—Sum, 3s. 9d.

Delivered to W. de Grange, 4s. $9\frac{1}{2}$ d., which he delivered to John, the smith, in part payment of 11s. $9\frac{1}{2}$ d. for work and shoeing from the Lord's Nativity, 31, Edw. [I] to Sunday next after the f. of St. Elfege, in the year above said; delivered to the Prior, 3s. for the mowers in the time of mowing the meadow.—Sum, 7s. $9\frac{1}{2}$ d.

¹ Probably intended for "Scholastico."

are kept, such as warrens, preserves, covers. The person meant

² An error for "leporaria," places where hares and other animals

is a gamekeeper.

A travelling cloak for the Prior, 13s. 4d.; two copes of "frisum" (frise?) for the same, 6s.; a knife for the same, 3s.; 1 "panyere" for the harness, 2s.; a salt-cellar (salsor), 5d.; saffron for stock, 8d.; black silk, for copes, 4d.; to a notary (tabellioni) for making instruments, 2s.; repair of the saddle, 4d., at London.—Sum, 28s. 1d.

Expenses of the Prior and Richard de Wendlebury, and his household to London, and there, and home again, at the feast of St. John Baptist, for making payment to the procurators of the Cardinal for peace made on account of the wood (pp bosc), 24s. 11d.

Expenses of the Prior.—Expenses of the Prior on Monday next before Hokeday, at Oxford, for despatching his affairs, 2s.; on Thursday next following for the County [Court], 2s.; on Monday next following for the synod of Alesbury, 2s.; expenses of the same after the feast of Holy Trinity, 2s., at Oxford; expenses of the Prior, Richard de W., and Ralph de Meriton, at Oxford, for two days and one night, at the instance of Master Robert de Oseney, 5s. 4d.; expenses of the Prior on Friday next after S.S. Peter and Paul, at Oxford, 2s.; expenses of the same there for his affairs on Sunday next following, 2s.; expenses of the same at Oxford, on Saturday next after the feast of St. Augustine, 15d.—Sum, 18s. 7d.

Expenses of the Prior on Tuesday and Wednesday next after the f. of the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr, 29s. 6¼d., for the visitation by Master Walter de Foderingeye, viz. in oats, bread, ale and wine, herrings, salmon, plaice, and other things appertaining, for sundry Priors and other strangers.—Sum, 29s. 6¼d.

Delivered to Master Robert Pateric for making peace again between the Cardinal and us, 100s.; 40s. to Master Geoffrey; to the procurators going to the Court to sue for absolution, 40s.; 23l. 6s. 8d. delivered to the procurators of the Cardinal for restoring peace, for the term of St. John; expenses of the Prior [and] Richard de Wendlebury, at London, at the feast of St. Michael, for the affairs of the Cardinal, and for the Prior's journey to Canterbury about the same; also at the same time, 23l. 6s. 8d. to the Cardinal's procurators; and 12d. to the Clerk of the Dean of St. Paul's, for execution of the absolution; to the page of Giffredus, half a mark.—Sum, 57l. 12s. 6d.

Also delivered 13s. 4d., at York, for the plea of the Monk for outgoings from a day in the Quindene of Easter; and 20d. for the expenses of a page going to York; also 4s. 6d. sent to York for the plea of the Lord John de Langeleye for the Octave of St. Michael, in 31, Edw. [I].—Sum, 19s. 6d.

Also 12l. 12s. delivered to Galvanus Bek,¹ in wool, by tallies.

Sum of the whole receipt, 90l. 10s. 10¼d.

Sum of the expenses, 95l. 5s. 3¾d.; and so the expenses exceed the receipts by 4l. 4s. 5d. (sic).

[On the dorse of the roll]:—

Repair of the Prior's saddle broken at Oxford, 6d.; 10 qrs. of lime, 2s. 6d.; 2 qrs. of salt, 5s. 2d.; candle for the Prior's chamber, 5d.; 7½ qrs. of salt about the feast of All Saints, 20s. 11d.; in linen cloth (tela) for the Prior, 2s. 8d.—Sum, 32s. 2d.

¹ Probably towards the payment of the loan received from him 3 years before towards the re-building of the Convent Church.

Expenses of Ralph de Meriton, at Oxford, for the affairs of the House, and of Adam de Oxford for the plea of a monk on the day of St. Germanus, Bishop and Confessor], 13d.; expenses of Ralph de Meriton to and from Lidinton, for Walter de Aldeburn, and one night with Walter, 2s. 9d.; expenses of Robert the Clerk, at the same time, at Oxford, on the Prior's affairs, 3d.; expenses of Ralph de Meriton going to Luive....., 5s. 8d.—Sum, 9s. 9d.

Expenses of the Official of Oxford on St. Margaret's day, in bread, 3d.; in ale, 10d.; in wine, 10½d.; in plaice.... ; [in] eels, 10¾d.; in mullets, 5d. On Sunday next following for the same in calves flesh, 3d.; on Friday following..... Waldechef and others; ale for John Huberd on the day of St. Peter ad Vincula, 8½d.; on Sunday following, in ale for the same, 8d.; in beef? (bow), 5d.; ale for Master Richard de Abbendon, 6d.; wine bought for the official, the Rector of Cestreton, Master Richard de Wendlebury, and others of the County for the Chapter holden at Stratton on Friday next after the feast of St. Michael, 15d.; salmon, 12d.; eels, 10d.; fresh fish, 16d.; herrings, 8d.; sauce or seasoning (salsa), ½d.—Sum, 13s.

Expenses of the Prior and Subprior for the exequies of Walter de Grendon, 20d., on the Nativity of St. Mary; expenses of the Prior and Stephen, at Oxford, on Thursday next following, 12d.; expenses of the Prior for the County [court] at Oxford after the feast of St. Michael,—of the Subprior, Robert de Aune, Richard de Wendlebury for other affairs at Oseney, 3s. 4d.—Sum, 6s.

Two pair of shoes for the Prior, 4s. 2d.

To Walter the Chamberlain, 18d., for shoes; to Walter, the Palfreyman (palefridario), 6d.; to little Pankon, 6d.; to Thomas le Page, 5d.—Sum, 2s. 11d.

Delivered to W. de Grange, 10s., for shoeing horses from Sunday next after the feast of St. Aelfege, to Sunday next after the f. of St. Peter ad Vincula, in part payment of 13s. 7d. in which he was bound to the Smith for the aforesaid time; to the same 10½d. for thatching the Grange, and 15d. for ale bought "in le blade"; 14s. 6½d. delivered to Gilbert Duk for a debt touching his account of Arnicote.—Sum, 26s. 8d.

Tallow bought, and wood, 2s. 9d.; in wick (weke) for candle, 1d. [This item is struck out.] For dishes and cups, 14d.; herrings, 15d.; at another time, 12d.; and at another time, 16d.; eggs, 2s. 4d.; also 42s. 5¾d. for the reapers, "by the term," against Cuprest and W. de Grange; also 2s. to the carters and other workmen for gloves.—Sum, 54s. 3¾d.

In bacon(s) and carcasses ? (? cris) bought from Don John Triveth, 40s., by obligation; bacon(s) bought of the Preceptor (or Prior?), 30s., by obligation.—Sum, 70s.

80 qrs. of wheat, 16l., price of the quarter, 4s.; 100 qrs. of barley, 16l. 13s. 4d., price of the qr. 40d.; 100 qrs. of oats, 10l., price of the qr. 2s.; 10 qrs. of malt from Galvanus, 29s.; also 40s. for the expenses of Stephen Beck to the Court of Rome as it appears by obligation, and 10s. to Master Robert Patric, as it appears in the same obligation.—Sum, 46l. 12s. 4d.

5 qrs. malt, 17s. 6d., price of the qr. 3s. 6d.; 5 qrs. of malt, 15s., price of the qr. 3s. These were bought of the Rector of Cesterton as appears by obligation.—Sum, 32s. 6d.

Sum of all the expenses on both sides.—154l. 11s. 0½d.

It is uncertain whether the following account refers to any property of Burcestre Priory, but it is found among the rolls (No. 12, Bundle 55) and is especially valuable as showing the low money value for which labour services were commuted at the end of the XIIIth century,

1303.

Account of Ralph de Franwelle, reeve of Bryreston, from the feast of St. Michael begining, until the same feast for one year in the 32nd year of the reign of King Edward [1].

Rents.—12*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.* from all the rents of assize, with 3*s.* of the rent of 4 acres of land given in dower to the church of Brerdyng.—Sum, 12*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*

Chivage.¹—23*d.* of the Chivage of grooms this year.

"Chersetth."²—7*s.* for 14 cocks and 42 hens of rent issuing from "Chersetth," price of each, 1½*d.*; 22*d.* for 22 hens, of rent issuing from presents at Easter; 14*d.* for 560 eggs, of rent issuing from presents at Easter.—Sum, 10*s.*

Pannage.—7*s.* 7*d.* for pannage of hogs and pigs this year—for hogs 1*d.*, and for pigs ½*d.*

Pasture.—15*s.* 3*d.* for 16 horses, 34 steers and heifers, and 17 calves, agisted in the pasture in the winter, to wit, for a head of horses, 4*d.*; for a head of steers and heifers, 3*d.*; and for a head of calves, 1*d.*; and 12*d.* for sheep agisted in the pasture; and 65*s.* 10*d.* for summer pasture, by the particulars of sale.—Sum, 4*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*

Issues of the Manor.—10*d.* for 20 old "clays" sold; 2*s.* 9*d.* for the forage of vetches, sold; 18*s.* 9*d.* for hay sold this year.—Sum, 22*s.* 4*d.*

Sale of grain—(particulars given).—Sum, 69*s.* 5¼*d.*

Sale of Stock.—For 1 ox, 7*s.*

Sale of Works.—6*s.* 1¼*d.* for the works of Walter Cacheside, released by the year; and 4*s.* 2*d.* for ploughing, which is called Beynurth; and 8*s.* 9½*d.* for 211 small works sold, price of the work, ½*d.*; and 2*s.* 4*d.* for harrowing, which is called Dustheggyng, sold; and 11*s.* 3*d.* for 135 works of Autumn sold, price of the work, 1*d.*

Fines and Perquisites of Courts (set out).—Sum, 6*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*

Further Sales of Grain.—Sum, 13*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*

Sum of the whole receipt, 44*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*

Acquittances.—Acquittance of the rent of 1 reeve by the year, 3*s.*; acquittance of 2 ploughs and 1 driver (fugator), by the year, 9*s.*—Sum, 12*s.*

Ploughs.—Iron, bought for the iron-work of 2 ploughs, by the year 3*s.*; 4 yokes bought 4*d.*; to a carpenter, new-making ploughs [and] harrows, and mending the old for 5 days 10*d.*—Sum, 4*s.* 2*d.*

Costs of the Carts.—4 clouts (clut), with nails bought for the carts, 4*d.*; 2 lb. of tallow, bought for the same, 2*d.*—Sum, 6*d.*

¹ Chivage or Chevage was a kind of head or poll money.

² "Chersetth" is "Church-scet" or "Chirch-scot," which was a

reserve of corn, poultry, or any other provision paid in kind to the secular Priests or to the religious.

Costs of the Houses.—In re-thatching the grange and granary by the task, for $3\frac{1}{2}$ days, 7d ; he took by the day 2d.

Purchase of Stock.—For 1 ox bought, 8s. 4d.

Costs of the Autumn.—For the expenses of 1 boon-day of 99 men, reaping, binding, and gathering $39\frac{1}{2}$ acres of wheat, as for one day 8s. 6d. ; wages of 1 reaper by the year, 4s. ; wages of 1 cowherd, 2s. 6d.

Sum of the whole expense, 40s. 7d. ; and he owes 42*l.* 12s. 10d.

1316.

"Account of Brother Ralph and Robert de Kyrtlington, of the Bursary of Burnecestre, from the feast of Saint Nicholas, in the 9th year of the reign of King Edward, son of King Edward, to the same feast, in the 10th year of the reign of King Edward, son of King Edward."

Rents.—Burencestre, 70s. 4d. ; Wreckwyke, 39s. 6d. ; Clifton, 6*l.* 5s. ; Kaversfield (old rent and new rent), 74s. 10d. ; Stratton, 17s. 6d. ; Westcote, 53s. ; Grimmesbury, 18*l.* ; Bigenhull, (from Simon Germain, of Bigenhull, 6d., for Somerton, 6d.), 12d. ; Arnicate (nothing entered.)

Aid.—4*l.* from Wrecchewyk, for aid ; also 26s. 8d. from Kaversfeld.

Of entry and fines of lands.—Several sums received from John Fynel, of Arnicate, and Hugh Benhul, of Wrecchewyk. ; (Dadinton mentioned also.)—Sum, 15*l.* 6s. 8d.—(Clifton mentioned.)

Stock Sold.—8*l.* 13s. 4d. from a red colt sold at Woxebrugge¹ ; wool sold, 20*l.* 3s. 4d. ; and of 13*l.* 6s. 8d. for the chantry of Master Walter de Foderingeye, allowed to us for our obligation, 20 marks ; also of 20*l.* from the same, for the same ; also of 6*l.* 13s. 4d. for the same.—Sum, 40*l.*

Surplusage, 55*l.* 13s. $5\frac{1}{4}$ d.

Repayments to the Lord of Bigehull, Matthew de la Vacche, the Abbot of Messenden and the Abbot of Eynesham.—Sum, 12*l.* 8s. 4d.

Pensions to a monk of Kyrtlington, to the Abbot of Oseney, to the Abbot of Eynesham, for the tithes of Stratton.—Sum, 112s.

Small expenses.—For nails, canvas for the bakery for covering the dough, herrings, flesh, locks for the door of the cellar, towels for the Prior's chamber, the pittance of Archdeacon Adam, figs and raisins, 4 cranes, salt, cups, making a winding stair ? (coclear) for the chamber, for "mathinormete," (?) gloves for the household, a brazen pot, for making 200 parchments from [our] own fleeces, ink, in mast of the wood of the Lord Earl at Bernewode at the feast of St. Michael, in the 10th year of Edward, 10s. ; one mill stone for the mill, &c.—Sum, 9*l.* 8s.

(Entry concerning Dadington.)

Expenses for the entertainment of certain persons, among others, the Chancellor of Oxford, the Archdeacon of Buck... enham.—Sum, 54s. $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.

¹ This is an instance of the exorbitant price of cattle at this time. The misery of the whole country was now excessive. The chivalry of England had just been disgraced on the field of Bannockburn, and the years 1314 and 1315 were darkened by a most distressing famine. "The scarcity of provisions still increased ; a quarter of "corn was sold not long after for 20s., and barley for a mark ; the

"sheep were also mostly dead of the rot, and corn being so very "dear, hogs and poultry could not be kept, whereby all manner "of fresh meats became so scarce, that the king going to St. "Albans in November, this year (1314), had much ado to get "bread to sustain his family."—(Parliamentary Hist., i. 152.)

Also 6s. for the Church of Burencestre to the Bishop of Lincoln for the subsidy granted by the clergy; also 66s. 11¾d. for the first moiety in defence of the Church of England against the Scotch, paid on the Ides of May; also 66s. 11¾d. for the same, for the second moiety on the Kalends of September, A.D. 1315; and 4d. for the acquittance.—Sum, 7*l.* os. 3¾d.

Gifts.—To the bailiff of the Lord Earl, at Burencestre; to the bailiff of Boxenham; to the bailiff of Powedelowe; knives bought for the Prior to give away; to the messenger of the Bishop of Lincoln; on Palm Sunday to the bailiff of Walinford; to the grooms of Master Richard de Bray, 12d.; to Master William de Kendale going with the Prior to Stowe Park for his affairs, 20s.; to the Steward of Kyrtlington, 13s. 4d.; and to others.—Sum, 65s. 6d.

For the Canons' clothing, 100s.

Fees of various persons, 60s.

Expenses of the Prior, at Oxford, when he sold the wool, 3s. 2¾d

One cloth of "blanket" for the Prior, 13s. 4d.

Clothing of the yeoman (valect') and shoeing, 6*l.* 19s. 11d.

Expenses of grooms and yeomen (garc et valect') in going to London several times, and once to the County [Court] of Oxford; to Wardedek, 2s., for seeking letters dimissory at Stowepark.—Sum, 9s. 8d.

Expenses of the Canons.—One at London; one at Lincoln "for the decree touching the muniments and privileges of the church of Burencestre before the Bishop of Lincoln"; the Subprior and Henry de Boweles, at Leicester, for the Prior's affairs; one at Lincoln and Pikeringe, when he took the Prior's palfrey to the Lord Earl; one at London, at the Archbishop's congregation; one at Lincoln, at the Archbishop's congregation.¹—Sum, 6*l.* 9s. 5d.

Fish and fowl bought for stock, 26s. 4d.; to workmen, 10s. 6d.; Stipends of the household, 7*l.* 8s. 8d.

Moneys delivered.—To the bailiff of Stratton, for threshing corn there, 19s.; for threshing corn at Burencester, 41s. 1d., and 10s. 4½d.; for tanning hides and mending (?) (swerd), 8s. 7d.; (Dadington mentioned); for the harvest at Arnicote, 20s.; for corn bought to be sown at Arnicote, 40s.—Sum, 11*l.* 13s. 6½d.

Cattle bought, 4*l.* os. 6d.; grain and oats bought (some delivered at Stratton), 116s. 8d.; underwood bought at Gravenhull, 12s.; also 12s. by the Prior; to the Smith of Meriton for shoeing the horses of the Prior's stable from the Annunciation in the 8th year of Edward, to the Annunciation in the 9th year of Edward, 10s. 9d.; to the reapers in Autumn, 8*l.* 14s. 4½d.; to Hugh Elyot and his son for his cart in the autumn, 10s.; to the tithers and persons binding (?) sheaves for the cart, 26s.

Total Expenses, 171*l.* 8s. 11¾d.

Total receipts, 127*l.* 16s. 2d.; and so the expenses exceed the receipts by 43*l.* 12s. 9¾d.

¹ The Archbishop of Canterbury, Walter Reynolds, held a visitation of his province in this year. See Hook's *Lives of the* Archbishops, vol. III., chapter VIII.

1317.

"[Account] of and Robert de Kyrtlington, of the Bursary of Burencestre, from the feast of Saint Nicholas, in the 11th year of the reign of King Edward, son of King Edward, to....."

[This account is mutilated. It appears to be similar to No. 19.]

Among the expenses are these items:—

In eggs for the f[east] of the parishioners, 10½d.; in "wastell" bread,¹ 8d.; "for glass windows in the new Chapel," 3s. 1½d.; "for the painting (pictura) of Walter of the Exchequer of Scobinton"; "for the glass windows of Bemund," 4s., and 2s. 8d.; expenses of "carrying money to Oseney for the second moiety against the Scotch in subsidy"; expenses of the Subprior visiting the several members (singulos) of our Order before the General Chapter, 6s.; to the mason [for the bill?] for the wall without the Prior's Hall, 9s. 4d.; paid to.... for the chimney, and doors, and windows of Cherlebury.....

1320.

"Account of Brother Ralph and Robert de Kyrtlington, of the Bursary of Burencestre, from the Octave of the Epiphany 13 to the same day 14 Edw. II."

Similar to preceding Bursary accounts. Among the expenses:—For the duplicate of the great Charter of the Lord the King, 30s." Fish for the Sheriff of Oxford on Friday before Whitsuntide, 4s.; wine and fish for the Officials of Oxford, and many others when [they made] the inquisition for the Church of Hetthe, 5s. 10d.; wine and fish for the Steward of Wallinford and many [others] on Friday (?) next after the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle, when they held the great Court of Walinford, 3s.; tenth paid at Eynesham for the defence of the Church and Realm against the Scotch. Expenses of Ralph, at Oxford, when he borrowed money of Richard Dalabere, 12d.; to John Strot, 12d., for the wall between the Chamber and the Kitchen; to Roger the painter, for the painting of the image of the Blessed Mary at the great altar, 40s.; timber bought at Takkele for the Mill of Kirtlington, 11s.; 27 feet and 4 stone of lead, 60s. 2½d.; white and coloured glass, 28s. 8d.²; 24 feet of lead, 54s..... Coloured glass, 25s. 3d.

Total receipts... 2½d.; expenses, 144l. 16d.; and so..... 27l. 10s. 1½d.

Besides the expenses noticed above, there may be also mentioned:—To the page of the painter going to Oxford, 1d.; other expenses at Bemund, Aylesbury, and Dadington; to Thomas Mundy, 8s., for expenses at London for the Parliament after the feast of St. Michael; expenses of Master Henry, at Banbury, 2s. 2d., for the plea of Grimmesbury.

¹ In the Assiza Panis of the Statute Law (S. R., p. 199), four kinds of bread are mentioned, Wastell, Simnel, Coket, and Treit. The first of these was the best, used only on great occasions.

² Probably foreign glass. This purchase of glass was considerable. Quoted by Prof. Rogers in his Agricultural Prices.

1327.

"Account of Brother Ralph and Robert de Curtlynton, of the Bursary of Burencestre, from the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, in the [20th?] year of the reign of King Edward, son of King Edward, to the feast of St. Martin, in the first year of the reign of King Edward the Third after the conquest."

(Similar to previous Bursar's Accounts.)

From the reeve of Kaversfield for the entry of the tenement [called ?] Holeway of Kaversfield, 6s. 8d. 6s. 8d. from the Vicar of Kaversfield, from the goods of John de la Penne; 40s. from William ate Walle, of Takkele, for having free estate. of the Earl's bondmen, and for the pannage of Wrechewyk; 17s. from the Vicar of Kaversfield of the arrears of the goods of John de la Penne; 30s. from Walter [for] the entry of the land of Thomas Taylour, at Wreckewyk; 60s., from William Myle, of Kaversfield. ; 4*l*. 15s. 9d. from the parson of Ardele.

Expenses.—40s. for the robes of the Prior's esquires; 50s. for the robes of the grooms of office, and the grooms of the stable; to the Marshal of the Lord R. de. lur, 6s.; to Walter Koc going to Berewyk and that part, 6d.; expenses of the novices at their (taking) Orders (ad ordines), at Bogingham, on a certain Saturday 14d.; to Reginald, the Prior's groom, going to Bemund with letters, 1d.; "In procurators of the Deanery, twice at the Archbishop's convocation, 18d., that is to say $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the mark"; for a public instrument for the tithes of Langeton, 3s. 4d.; "To Engalismus Nuncio of the Lord the Pope in England, 7s. 2d.; for procuration of the fourth year, and in saffron for the Prior, 3s.; and in wax for the Prior's seal, 5d. In milk for the Priors of Chaucumbe and Wrokkeston, 1d.

To Brother William de Aston going to the Roman Court, 2s. In ox-flesh for the Undersheriff of Oxford and Joseph and others in the Chamber on the morrow of the new mass of Thomas de Worton, 16d. Other expenses on the same occasion. In calves' and hogs' flesh for the Convent, of the Prior's pittance, on Thursday before Quinquagesima, 20d.

To the bailiff of the Lady of Wodestdon, 2s. of the Prior's gift. French stone (francia petra) for the Prior's Chamber, 4s. French stone for the gate of the mill, 4s. In "letuariis" for the Subprior (being) infirm, 2s. 5d.; 13s. 4d. to Brother Alexander [going] to the Roman Court; 5 quarters of lime for the gate of the mill, 2s. 6d. French stone for the gate of the mill, 22d. One stone for the altar in the new Chamber of the Prior, 8d. Two hogs for a gift to "the Lord and Lady Countess" in Easter week, 10s. To the tyler of Cherlton, 20s. Wine bought against the coming of the Countess, 18d. Iron bought for the mill-gate 4s. 4d. Various expenses for the Lord Robert de Norton, Knight, Thomas de Harpedene,¹ and the Lord Henry Spigurnel.

To the shoemaker going to London with the acquittance of Angolismus,² 8d. In wine for store and (for) the Master of Aynho and many others on a certain Sunday, 20d. To the Convent £6 for the term of St. John the Baptist. To the Abbot of Oseney for the term of St. Mary, 30s., as appears by the acquittance. To the Abbot of Messenden, £10 for all arrears as appears by the acquittance. To John Byrland carrying the letter (of) the Official

¹ In the next account he is called "The Escheator." The sub-Escheator is also mentioned in the present account.

² The same as "Engalismus," the Pope's Nuncio.

of Lincoln (to) the Official of Oxford for the sentence (sūna) of Angolismus, 2s. To the Abbot of "Aulney," 6os. for three terms in arrear. Hinges, screws, nails, a lock? &c. for the new gate of the mill, 3s. 8d. "In the dyeing of wool for the Prior's cope (cappa) at Aynho, 6s.;" 4s. delivered to Andrew de Crokesford to expend at London for seeking absolution from Angolismus for the Prior. In ale for the Bishop of Winchester, 12d. To John, the Carpenter of Caresfield, 6d. for expenses for buying timber in Siltern. A mill-stone, 13s. 4d. Expenses of the Prior to Beumund in going and (returning?) to view timber to be bought of the Lady of Hok, 5s. 2s. 6d. in wine for the bailiff of Wallingford holding the great Court at Burencestre and for many others on the day of the Decollation of St. John. Expenses of Reginald at Gloucester to seek the Lord of Caresfield, 8d. To the bailiffs of the Lord of Stratton in the Autumn and to the reeve of the same, 12d. Cord for the net of Richard the Hosteller, 18d. Beef, pork and veal bought from John Fa. for the feast of the parishioners of Stratton, 44s. 3½d. Other expenses for the same feast. Beef, mutton, veal and pork bought from John Fayreman for the feast of the bondmen of Wrechewyk, 10s. ; eggs, 10d. ; pullets, 4d. Similar expenses for two "bedrepes" in autumn and two "benherches" after autumn.¹ 12 stones for the mill 4l. 10s. Expenses of the Prior at Oxford at the Synod after the feast of St. Michael, 6s. Ale bought for the Earl of Lancaster, 23d. ; 3 quarters of oats for the same, 5s. A present sent to the Lord John Giffard, Junior, 16s. To the procurator of the Deanery at the congregation at Staunford before the feast of St. Michael, 9d. Expenses of Richard de Ardinton at the convocation at Leicester on the morrow of All Souls, 13s. 4d. Given to W. the Marshal holding the great Court at Walingford on the Decollation of St. John Baptist, 6s, 8d. ; and other sums to other persons and their grooms (garc.) on the same day. To the Smith of Meriton, 2s. 6d.

Total receipts, £153 18s. 4½d. ; expenses, £153 11s. 1½d. And so they owe 7s. 3d.

On the back of the preceding account is another Account of the Bursary in 1 and 2 Edw. III. (similar to the preceding and other like accounts). 20s. from the Rector of Langeton for tithes there. (This is among the rents received from various places.)

Expenses of the Prior at Oxford for three days when he measured and bought (talliavit) the robes of the boys, 6s. 8d. Cloth for a sarpler² for Brother William the Convert, 4s. 9d. Pork, beef, and a hog sent to the Lady of Wodestdon, and another hog to Don Robert de Waterville at Curtlinton. A hog sent to the Lord of Ardeleye. Two sextaries³ of parchment [of] "velym" (vellum) for the Prior's missal, 2s. 4d. ; and ink and vermilion, "pounz" (pounce) and "staungegreye," and other small things, 4d. To Thomas Mundy of Wodestok, 2s., and to two parkers (or park-keepers) of Wodestok, 4s, "Chevrone" (?) bought at Arnicote for the Kitchen of Clifton, 4s. To John Wildelond the physician (medico) 4s. To the monk of Curtlinton 20s. for the term of St. Michael as appears by the acquittance. To the Abbot of Eynesham 12s. for tithes at Stratton. 21 qrs. of beans bought at Aynho, 53s. 4d. Coneys for a present to the Lady Despensare, 2s. 6d, To Adam the Prior's groom going to

¹ Bedrip or Bedrepe was the customary service of the inferior tenants in cutting down their lord's corn or doing some other work in the field.

Benherch or Benerth was service rendered by plough or cart. It is so called in Kent.

² Sarpler or sarpliar was generally coarse packcloth made of hemp to wrap up wares. (See Nares' Glossary). Here it must mean a robe or long dress.

³ Sextary, properly a measure containing about 1½ pint.

Northampton, 4d. . To a certain clerk of the Chancery, Hareboruwe by name, 3s. 4d. for the writs of Arnicote. Expenses of Andrew at Northampton for the Prior's affairs, 2s. To the grooms of a cup-bearer (Mazuarius) of the Lord the King, 9d. To the procurators of the Archdeaconry twice at Lincoln and Staunford, 18d. Veal for the visitors of our Order on Thursday after St. Mark, 10d and in pullets, 3d. Given to the grooms of the Prior of Wrokeston, 9d. 6s. 8d. sent to the Sheriff of Northampton for the Prior's affairs, and expenses of Andrew carrying money thither, 2s. in the time of the Parliament there. Forage bought at Blakethurne, 40s. Various gifts of flesh, &c., by the Prior to the Convent. Expenses of Andrew de Crokesford going to Northampton to treat with the Lord Geoffrey Scrob for John le Boteler, 6s. 8d. To the avenor¹ of the Lady the Queen, 8s. 8d. Given to the Sheriff of Oxford 13. 4d., on the day when he was here for making an extent [i.e., survey or valuation] of the Manor of the Lord Earl; and to his clerks, 4s.; and to his grooms, 18d. Two hogs bought and sent to the Prioress of Letlemor 8s. 6d. at her installation. For a writ of trespass sued out against divers men of Arnicote, 2s. Two silk purses given to the esquires of Geoffery de Scrob, 18d. Given to a groom going to York, 16d. Wine bought for the Lady of Borewacks 20d. Various expenses for the entertainment of persons in the Prior's Chamber. Two ells of linen cloth for the shaving (rastura ? rasura) of the Prior, 10d. Expenses of Richard de Ardinton before the Bishop's clerks at Bokinham, 4d. 2s. to a clerk of the Infirmary for his stipend in arrear for ten years. For making 13 skins of vellum, 7d. To the Convent for their chamber for the term of St. John Baptist, 6l. To the same for the term of Purification, 6l. To Master William the farrier ("ferrar") of the Lord the King, 3s. 4d. Delivered to Richard de Ardinton (going) to York, 13s. 4d. To William de Dunstaple, steward of the Earl of Marsh ("de Marescal"), 13s. 4d.; to his clerk, 12d.; and to his grooms, 12d. Present made to the Bishop of Lincoln at Bannebury, 10s. 1d. Timber bought at Kirtlington, Cleydonwode, and Gravenhull. Expenses of Richard de Ardinton at the General Chapter, 20½d. To Reginald, the avenor of the Lord Earl, 5s.

Total receipts, 124l. 18s. 7d.; expenses, 124l. 6s. 11d.; and so they owe 11s. 8d.

1346.

"Account of the Brothers Richard de Ardington and Richard de Nor..... [Bur]sars, of Burencestre, from Michaelmas 18 to Mich. 19 Edw. III."

Received from Don. Will de Barton and Robert Hardy, 26l. 7s. 6½d.

From Clifton (from Richard Sterch), 34l. 4s. 3d.

From the bailiff of Grimesbure, 12l. 15s. 11d.

From the reeve of Caversfeld, 8l. 5s.

Arnecot: from the reeve of, 13s. 4d.; also 6l. 13s. 4d. of a certain fine from Henry Gardiner. From the bailiff of Westcot, 69s. 0½d.

From the bailiff of Belmond, 13l. 6s. 8d. Deyer (Dairy), 13s. 4d. from Adam the Dairyman (or Ada the Dairywoman) de Ade Deye. Sheepfold. From Hugh the Shepherd, for sheep &c., sold, 4l. 2s.

Sales of malt and wool, 19l. 2s. 6¼d. Total of the receipt, 130l. 5s. 10¼d.

Surplus of the last amount, 26l. 9s. 7d.

¹ An officer who purveys oats for the stables.

Paid to the Lord of Bigenhull by the year, 20d. Pensions to the Abbots of Oseneye, Eynesham, and Messenden, Henry Bowel, Thomas de Techewik, Robert de Harehorne, John Venor; to the King for the first and second moiety of the first year of the tenth assessed (66s. 11½d. each time); for the procurations of the present Lord Pope, 7s; for the procurations of the Archdeacon of Oxford, 7s. 7¾d.—Total, 23l. 11s. 1¼d.

Stipends of household servants; payments for poultry and fish, for one "benherth," for mutton; for "merlyng"¹ at Brakkele for Dom. John de Harewelle; for spice, for congers and eels for the Steward of Stratton; for cloth; for one "husia"² for the Prior's palfrey, 6d.; repayment of a loan of 40s.; expenses of the Prior on the day of the great County [Court] at Oxford, 10s. 7d.; one pair of boots (botarum) for the Prior, 22d.; one pair of "galoshes" for the same, 5d., &c. (Names various of persons mentioned.)—Sum, 12l. 19s.

Expenses of the Prior at Oxford for buying cloth for the esquires, officers, grooms, and pages, 6s. 2d. Cloth for one tunic for the Prior, 3s. 6d. Ale bought and sent to the auditor of the Earl of Northampton, 19d. Ale bought for the expense of the Lord Prior on the day of the burial of Richard at Halle, 2s. 9d. Various payments for fish for persons named. Mutton for Don. John de Makesfeld. Pork, mutton, &c., for various persons, Herrings for the household. Given to Don. John Dengein by the Prior, 6l. 13s. 4d. Given to the men of Don. John Dangein, 13s. 4d. Given to Don. John Pabworge by the Prior, 20s.—Total, 9l. 9s.

Herrings, fish, "merling," salmon, oysters, congers, codling, "hadduc," hens, pigs, &c. Payments to the sawyer, to a man gathering moss, for work at the Grange; fish, wine, &c., for certain persons; herrings for two benherthes on the same day, 22d. Given to a certain minstrel of the Earl of Northampton. Canvas for the Prior's net.—Sum, 15s. 11d.

To Adam, of the Prior's stable at Brakkele, with one horse, for his expenses, 6d. Oysters and fish for the household. Given to the clerks on the night of St. Nicholas in the refectory, 2d. To the same in the Prior's chamber, 6d. Fish, oysters, &c., for various persons named. Veal bought for one pittance for the Convent. Silk, "sendall," and thread for one cape of the Prior and 1 tunic, 6½d. Hens bought. Veal, wine, and "alland"³ bought for certain persons, &c.—Sum, 20s. 3¼d.

To the mason for his work at Schepecot, 12d. For the head and "coler" of a boar. Parchment bought, 19d.; ink, 3d. Paid to Walter Patter for making the Prior's net, 16d. Veal bought on Sunday after Epiphany for the Prior's feast, 22d.; pork at the same time, 11d.; eggs, 12d.; saffron and spices, 16d.; pigs, 22½d.; "gastell,"⁴ 7d.; chickens, 6d. "Merlyng" and "sperling" for the official of Oxford, 16d.; stockfish and menus⁵ for the same, 9d. Delivered to the Lord Prior [going] to Belmond, 9s. Fish bought and sent there, 20d. Horse-meat for the same, 6d., &c.—Sum, 28s.

Delivered to Ric. de Ardington [going] to London to seek counsel for the Church of Messenden, for his expenses, 6s. Delivered to the same [going] to Lidinton for the same

¹ Merlyng or Merlin a very small species of hawk (chiefly used to fly at small birds), or some kind of fish; probably the latter. (Halliwell's Glossary).

² Either Husheon, a cushion or saddle; or Husean a particular

kind of stirrup.

³ Alland for Alle Ale.

⁴ Probably meant for wastel bread.

⁵ Probably a variety of cod fish or ling.

church, 8s. Paid to Master John de Caversfeld for his work about the windmill, 18d. For shaving the Prior, 7d. Paid to the Archdeacon of Huntingdon and his fellows, 40s. Given to a minstrel of the Earl of Gloucester by the Prior, 6d. Given to the Prince (?) that now is (nunc principi) by the Prior, 2s. To his grooms, 9d. Delivered to Ric. de Ardington, going to Oxford to pay tenths, for his expenses, 12d. Paid for writs at London, 2s. 6d. Pots, platters, and dishes, for the Prior's chamber, 3s. 7d. To a groom seeking John de Stininton at Tonebrugge, 18d. Given to the present Earl of Gloucester by the Prior, 2s. Given to a "corur" (courier) of the Lord the King by the Prior, 6d. To two minstrels, 6s.? To Ric de Ardington, to London to carry the procurations of the Lord Pope, for his expenses, 6s. "To Ric. de Ardington, to London, for his expenses of Don William de Barton, Don Geoffrey de Ayno, and other witnesses produced against the Lord [name smeared], 40s." Fish for the men of the Earl of Northampton, 9d. Paid to John Philip, of Stratton, 30s. borrowed of him. Given to the esquire(s) of John Dengeyn by the Prior, 6s.; to the officers of the same, 3s.; to his grooms, 3s.; wine for the same [John], 15d. Given [to] a farrier [of] the Earl of Northampton by the Prior, 2s. To Ric. de Ardington, to Bokeden for the Prior's business, for his expenses, 3s. 4d. To the Lord Prior [going] to Belmond in Easter week, for his expenses, 10s. To Ric. de Ardington, at the same time, for the Prior's affairs "to London," 6s. 8d. Fish and wine for Master John de Strettle. Veal, poultry, and wine for the Justices of the forest, William de Kinebell and others. Veal, poultry, eggs, and wine for Don John Dengein. To the Prior going to and returning from London, 26s. 4d.; a pair of boots for the Prior, 2s. 4d. spurs for him, 8d. To John Deister, to London for the Prior's affairs, 2s. Paid to John Warde, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ 13s. 4d. Given to the esquire [or esquires?] of the Archdeacon of Huntingdon, 2s. Given to the clerk of Master Augustus de Stocton, 12d.; to his groom, 6d. To Thomas Ulger, esquire of John Dengeyn, 2s. 6 quart(ers) of lime, 3s. Slates, 2s. 2000 lathenails, 16d. To the sawyer, for sawing boards at the Grange, 2s. 8d. To Ingram Falcanar, rector of Dadinton, 12d. To the minstrels of the Earl of Gloucester, 2s. Given to Walter the Assessor? (cessator) in the Hall of the Lord the King, 2s. One "cacos" bought and sent to the Lord James de Audele, 1s. Given to Thomas Gereveys, of Wycumbe, 6s. 8d.; to his clerk, 2s.; to his groom, 6d. Veal, pigs, poultry, and ale for the Lord John de Lyons and others. Veal for the Steward of Curlinton, Ric. Cokham, and others, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; ale for the same, 4d. To the Prior [going] to Bokkedene, for expenses, 60s. Paid to the Archdeacon of Huntingdon, for his expenses to Bokkedene and for his labour, 49s. 8d., at the same time. Expenses for the bakehouse, malthouse, &c. Wine, spices, ginger, mustard, "and other necessities," bought for the feast of the Lord Prior on St. Anne's Day, 16s. 7d. Beef, mutton and pork, at the same time, 16s.; pigs, 4s.; poultry, 2s.; 300 eggs, 12d.; ale, 18d., all at the same time. Fish on the following Friday for the King's men, 18d.; eels, same day, 5d. To the Lord Prior [going] to the burial of the Rector of the Church of Dadinton, 2s. Veal for the esquire(s) of the Lady of Bokenhull,¹ 3 $\frac{1}{2}$. Herrings on a Friday for the steward of Wallingford and others, and for the household of the autumn (*i.e.* harvest) of Stratton, 13d. "Morne," stockfish, mackerel, salmon, pikerell, and ale for the same persons. Herrings on a Friday for the Archdeacon of Huntingdon, 12d.; various other fish for the same; wine and ale for the same; given to his men, 13s. 4d. Given to a man for taking the hay of the Lord

¹ Lady Margaret de Amory, widow of Baron Richard de Amory, then in possession of Bucknell manor.

the King in Guremen, 5s. 4d. Given to Walter Balle, purveying hay and oats for the King's palfrey, 2s.; to his groom(s), 6d. Given to Poleyn, purveying for the King's chamber, 3s. 4d.; to [his] groom(s), 6d. Expenses of the Prior at Oxford, "when he was impleaded by the Abbot of Mescenden in the Court of Walingford, at Norhtoseneye," 13s. 4d. To the brother of the Steward of Walingford, 3s. 4d.; to his groom(s), 6d. To a certain bailiff of Walingford, 3s. Given to the Steward of Wallingford when he held the view of frankpledge of Burencestre 6s. 8d.; to his clerk, 2s.; to his chamberlain, 12d.; to his grooms, 6d. To William de Barton, for the expenses of the grange, 13s. 4d. Beef, mutton and ale for Master William de Honinton on a certain Lord's Day; given to him, 13s. 4d.; to his men, 6s. 8d. Given to the Serjeant of the Arches by the Prior, 3s. 4d.; to Master Thomas Minot, coming with him, 2s.; to their grooms, 6d.

[One or two membranes appear to have been lost. On the dorse is a poem in early English, relative to Rome, &c., of considerable length.]

1356.

"Account of Brother William de Barton, Bursar, of Burcestre, from Michas 28 to 29 Edw. III."

(Similar to preceding accounts.) Moneys received from Burncestre, Wreckewik, Caversfield, &c. Sum of the whole receipt.—54*l.* 19s. 4½*d.*

Repayments.—Paid for the 15th granted to the King for Wrechewik, 18s. 6d. Paid to the Abbot of Mussenden in part payment of the farm of Arnecote, 13s. 4d. Paid to the Abbot of Eynesham, for pension, 40s. Paid to the monk of Curlyngton, for the term of St. Michael, anno 29, 20s.

Payments.—For making walls about the grange and in other places, &c. Procurations of the Archdeacon of Oxford, 7s. 8d. Expenses of William Downe at Davyntre, for seeking a tailor (cissor), 4d. Expenses of poor clerks on the day of the supper, 2s. Given to two men bringing to the Prior two fawns ("fowenes") as a gift (exhennium), 18d. Paid to the brother of the Lord Prior—in payment of 20*l.*—20s. Delivered to the Prior at the same time, 6*l.* 15s. Delivered to the Prior for the Abbot of Oseneye and Master William Donne and the Sheriff of Oxford, 4*l.* 3s. 8d. To the Prior [going] to Ardyngton, 2s. To the Prior, for a debt to Richard de Arche, 100s. To the Prior [going] to London, 8*l.*, at Michaelmas. The reeve of Chesterton is mentioned. Stipends of the household, &c.

Sum of expenses, 59*l.* 4s. 5½*d.*; exceeding the receipts by 4*l.* 5s. 1d.

1397.

"Account of Brother Thomas Byfeld, Sub-prior, and Richard Albion, Canon, Bursar, of Burncester, of the goods received and expended there from the Vigil of St. Michael in the 19th year of the reign of King Richard II., to the Vigil of the same in the 20th year.

	£	s.	d.
Total of receipts	211	11	6
Total of expenses.....	210	9	10

This account is given in its original Latin in Appendix No. III., in Vol. II. of Dunkin's History of the Hundreds of Ploughley and Bullingdon.

TEMP. RICH. II.—1377-99.

An Account, of which a large portion, including the title, is lost.

Tithes of hay, &c.—3d. from Agnes Scheperde for the green bank next the causeway without.....; 20d. received for straw sold in our garden at Middlyngton; 12s. for straw sold to the Rector there. 14d. received from land to farm demised in the head (in cap) or great place of Midlynton. 4s. 7d. received from Walter Purs, of Midlynton, for our dovecote there. 49s. 4d. received from Hugh Loryng, of Great Missenden, of a debt of Brother John Watforde [due] for a long time past, besides 4s. allowed to the same for the price of a horse bought and sold between the same heretofore.

7s. 9d. received from estreats of the Courts holden in Lent and since Michaelmas.

Sum of the whole receipt.—138*l.* 3s. 1d.

Excess of last account.—20*l.* 15s. 8d. 13s. 4d. allowed to the men of Wrechewyk, in recompence of the 15th payable to the Lord the King the (second?) time this year; 6s. 8d. advanced (accomodat') to Geoffrey Caversfeld as a gift. 3s. for the tenement next the bridge called Mareysbregge, vacant for two terms, 26s. 8d.; allowed to the farmer of Caversfeld. 6s. 8d. for a tenement formerly John Sperman's, senior of Wrechewyk, vacant the whole of this year;¹ 6s. 8d., allowed to the rent-collector there. 2s. 6d. condoned to Thomas Chambre, of the rent of half a virgate of land in the field of Bygenhulle. 6d. allowed to Thomas Deep, of Caversfeld of money of the meadow of Northmede, with the head to him demised. 13s. 4d. allowed to John Chambre, farmer, of Arnekote. 16d. allowed to William Pirie, of the rent of the tenement formerly of William Peyntur, because of a certain chamber there to be made, and not made, as it had been promised to him. 3s. of rent of Feryngforde, in arrear for a year and a half. 13s. 4d. of rent of Blakenhulle. "3s. 4d. of the tenement of John Ynes, formerly in Wrechewyk."

Yearly pensions.—Various sums "repaid" to the Abbots of Oseneye, Eynesham and Aulney. To the Abbot of Mussenden, by the year, 6*l.* 13s. 4d., for the Manor of Arnekote. To the Lord of Bygenhull, for the furlong without the gate of the Upper Grange, 6s. 8d. To the same, for two cottages in Burc[estre], 20d. To Lord Lestraunge, for land without the gate of the mill with a certain mete, 4s. 4d. To the Sheriff, for the schirewyt, 4s. To Lord Lestraunge, for 2lb. pepper for the great place in Midlynton, 2s. To the same for another tenement there, 6d. Delivered to the Chamberlain of the Convent to be distributed to the same for the chantry of William Hayle, 13s. 4d.

Tenths and procurations.—Paid to the Prior of St. Fredeswide's, Oxford, for the first moiety of the Counties of Oxford and Bucks, 66s. 11½*d.* To the same, for the second moiety, 66s. 11½*d.* "For the third moiety of the tenth granted to the King this year in the Archdeaconry aforesaid, 66s. 11½*d.*" To the Archdeacon of Oxford, for procurations of the parish church of Burncestre, 7s. 8d. "To the same, for the synod of Easter and St. Michael by the year, 4s."

Debts acquitted.—To Robert Buckenhulle, for linen cloth, 8d. To John Ludlowe, of Oxford, for spices, 13s. 4d. To John Kyngesmelle, for cloth; 6s. 8d. To Alice Howes, for 5½ flagons of ale, as by a paper of Richard Albion, 11d.

¹ See page 12 of this history.

Costs of the ploughs and carts.—2 pair of wheels bought in "the Chiltarne" (hills or district), 9s. 2 pair of wheels, bought of William Horner (?) of Chiltron, 8s. Leather, whips, &c. Payment to a roper. Wheels bought at Wodestoke. Horse-collars, &c.

Expenses of the kitchen.—Expenses for the Lord Baldwin Bereforde with his wife and family, staying the night and to breakfast on the morrow, 5s. 10d. Expenses at Midlynton for the same, Robert James and many other gentlemen coming there, 8s. 8d. Expenses of the parishioners' feast, 22s. 3½d. Expenses for a feast for the gentlemen (convivii pro generosis) on the morrow of the Epiphany, 8s. 5½d. Also in the expenses of another feast on the Lord's Day within the Octave of the Apostles Peter and Paul, on which day there was a great play (magnus ludus), as by the paper, 13s. 10½d.

Small household expenses.—Cheese; "heircloth" for the brewhouse; a goose for the household before the Nativity by the Prior's command; one quart of wine, with the expenses of the person fetching the same, on the day on which the Lord Prior feasted. John Purcel [and] William Addurbury, with their wives in Lent; ale; pullets for the Lord John Wiltschir; 13 ashen cups, bought for the Prior's Hall. To William Pirie, making the "clowse" at the end of the pond next the cemetery, and the timber work of the well next the kitchen, &c., 3s. 5d. To a stranger cutting timber at Stowwode, 2 days, 4d. For felling nine cartloads of wood at Bernewode, 13½d. To a certain foolish woman (fatue) of Merton "ad.....," 2d. "To two sawyers, sawing for the great water-wheel for 3½ days, 14d." To John, the miller, making the said wheel, 20d. To the same, for mending the "cogwheel," (broken), 3 days, 6d. To William Pirye, mending the great wheel of the mill, 2½ days, 5d. To the same, for making a new cogwheel, 4s. 6d.

Foreign expenses.—1 flagon of bastard wine, with expense of fetching it from Oxford, 17d. To John Asbrook [going] to Bemond to fetch the money for the tenth at the beginning of Lent, and from thence, 4d. Expenses of the same at Oxford, to speak with Master Robert Newby, &c. (This paragraph is a long one, and is much defaced and mutilated, as also is the next paragraph, the title of which is lost. Some of the items might be made out with a good deal of trouble.)

1409.

"BURNCESTRE."

Account of the Lord Richard Parentyn, Prior there, and of Brother William Islepe, Sub-Prior, Bursars there of all receipts and liveries by the same, from the morrow of St. Michael of 9 Hen. IV., to the same day 10 Hen. IV.

Curtlyngton.—One red rose from Henry Bowell, for the lands and tenements which he holds there, to him and his heirs, as appears by the Indenture thereof made.

Newington Purcel.—One grain of clove-pink (garioph), received there at the term of Easter for certain lands and tenements which Roger de Stodele formerly held there; to hold to him and his heirs for ever, in exchange for a certain yearly rent in Grymmysbury, as appears by Indenture.

Pouhele.—Nothing this year, because there was no vacancy there nor removal of Prior.

Arrears of the last account, 26l. 6s. 4d.

Rents with farms.—85s. 4d. received from 14 tenements in Burncestre, as appears by the rental. 60s. of the rent of tenants in Wrecchewyk. 74s. for lands demised to men of Wrecchewyk, of Blakethorne and others. 4s. 7d. for lands demised to be sown in the fields of Burncestre, Dedington, &c. 20*l.* for the farm of Stratton; 6s. 8d. for the tenements of..... Aleyn there. 80s. for the farm of Caversfeld,.....; 26s. 8d. for the village and pasture of Blakenhull next Wodesdon. 81s. 4d. of rents of lands and pasture in Arnekote. 2s. of rent in Fyryngford. 6d. of increase of rent there, viz., 2 capons. 14*l.* 13s. 4d. for the farm of Beumond,..... 87s. 11d. of rent in Curtlyngton. 18s. 2d. of rent in Wendulbury. 100s. for the farm of Letecumbe. 16*l.* for the farm of the church of Ardyngton. 6*l.* for the farm of the portion of the church of Cumpton. 93s. 4d. for the farm of the mill within the Priory. 26s. 8d. for the farm of the wind-mill. 40s. for the farm of Mudelyngton. 5s. for half a virgate of land demised to Richard Cook in the field of Bygenhull.

Sum, 157*l.* 10s. 10d.

Issues of the Manor and Kitchen.—Horses—peas—beans—wool—hides—calf-skins—fleeces, &c. sold, 23*l.* 19s. 5d.

Sale of herbage.—(names of meadows, &c.), 41s. 2d.

Foreign receipts.—10s. from underwood sold to the Vicar of Burncestre at Burnewode; 15s. from underwood sold to John Brown at Gravenhull; 16d. received in the collection of tithe lambs in the parish of Burncestre.

Perquisites of Courts.—33s. 4d. rec. from Richard Cook, for having license to marry Agnes, late wife of Adam Seberne, of Bygenhull, the Lord's bondwoman, who was the daughter of the late William Osmund, of Wrecchewyk. Of estreats of courts holden at Burncestre, nothing, because in the stipend of Walter the Hayward (Agillarius) before his departure, &c.....

Allowances, with repayments.—Repaid to the chantry of William Hale, by ancient order, 13s. 4d. For the "Schirewyzt," by the year, 4s. Allowance of the farm of Stratton for livery of cloth this year, 6s. 8d. Repaid to the Lord Lestraunge, for the furlong without the mill-gate, besides 4s. paid by John Scletter to the same Lord for another land which the same John holds of the Prior and Convent in Burncestre for term of his life, by copy of Court (Roll) of 8th Hen. IV., by the year, 4s. 4d. Repaid to the Lord of Bygenhull, for the furlong without the gate of the grange of the Priory, in the tenure of John Faukonere, 8s. 4d.

Repaid to the Lord Earl of Stafford for the "helve" (afterwards described as "helowewall" and "gabulwall") of a certain house at Curtlyngton, 2d. Repaid to the collector of the rents of Wrecchewyk, 6s. 8d.; ditto of Curtlyngton, 4s. Repaid to the heirs of Alan Fiz Piers for Wendulbury, 7s. 5d. Paid to Brother William Islepe, in part payment of an old debt at the time when he [was] in the office of the kitchen, 26s. 8d. £9 —s. 3d.

Yearly Pensions.—Repaid to the Abbot of Oseneye, 60s. To the Abbot of Eignesham, 40s. To the Abbot of Aulney, 40s. To the Abbot of Messenden, for the farm of Arnekote, 6*l.* 13s. 4d.

Tenths and Procurations.—Paid to the Abbot of Thame, collector of a moiety of a tenth in the Archdeaconry of Oxford, 48s. 6d. To the same for a moiety of the same tenth in the Archdeaconry of Bucks, 18s. 6d. Paid to the Archdeacon for procuration of the parish church

of Burncestre, 7s. 7¾d. To the same for synodals, 3s. Paid for the moiety of a tenth of the portion of the church of Cumpston, in the Archdeaconry of Wilts, 5s. 4d. Paid for a certain subsidy granted to the Bishop of Winchester towards the Roman Court for settling the schism (pro cismate cedand), viz., from every pound according to the tax, 1½d., 5s. 1½d. in the Archdeaconry of Oxford. And for the same subsidy in the Archdeaconry of Bucks in like manner. Sum.—4*l.* 10s. 1¼d.

Debts acquitted.—Paid to John Kyngemull, draper, of Oxford, in part payment of 100s., an old debt for cloth bought in the fair of St. Fritheswyda, 50s. Paid to Master Robert Newby, for the debt of Thomas Poulton, at the time when Master Thomas procured and renewed the ancient Bulls at Rome, viz., in the third year last past, 66s. 8d. Debts for spices bought at Oxford and London. To Thomas the Tailor (cissor), for the debt of Brother Thomas Byfeld, sub-prior, deceased, 13s. 4d. To Agnes Bloxham, for repair to her tenure, as promised at her first entry, 2s. 6d., &c. Sum.—7*l.* 11s. 3d.

Costs of ploughs and carts, 23s. 10½d.

Small necessities.—For the making of a piece of silver made "there" with (our) own silver, for the Prior's hall, 3s. 10d. For 6 leaves of gold parted, bought for the lid (cooper-tulo) of a marble bowl of the Prior's hall, 3d., &c., &c. Sum.—57s. 2½d.

Small household expenses.—Wine for the Convent, for Lord Lestraunge, and for the Countess of Stafford, &c., &c., 56s. 9d.

Costs of houses.—To John Carpentere, of Brackele, making a new roof over the vestry which was lately made anew in the time of Geoffrey, the last Prior, because three great beams were broken; hired in gross; 53s. 4d. To a plumber of Aylesbury, pulling down the lead from the said roof, 6d. To two sawyers of Langeton, sawing beams and hanging posts (laces et pendentas postas) for the same work, 1½ day, 6d. The rest of the costs of the said roof will appear in the next account. Repair of the porch of the great barn. A new hanging gate next the small barn of the upper grange. A wooden flooring (fundamentum) under the feet of the horses of the Prior's stable. Removal of the barn which was placed at the toft formerly Frerehewes in Wrechewyk for William atte Mulle, who died in the same year; and replacing it in the new sheep cote there. Mending the tiled barn and making another new hanging gate next the garden door (ostium gardini). Making a standing-place (stationem) in the laundry (lavendria) for fattening beasts. An entire apparatus de Rouges¹ for the wind-mill. 14 ells of canvas for the same mill; thread for the same. Work done at the new sheepecote of Wrechewyk. John Sclattere hired to tile anew the Infirmary house. Thomas Sclatter, of Curtlyngton, hired to mend defects in every part of the Oil House ("zoylynghows") next the bakehouse; and defects of the brewhouse and bakehouse. A tiler of Pedyngton in co. Northampton tiling upon the cloister next the church door on the side of the chapter-house (juxta ostium ecclie ex pte dom capituli). Shingles (cindulæ pro scinculæ) for the house of George Neuwers in the upper gate towards the town and for other houses of the Priory; 1000 tiles for the same (houses). Mending the free-stone work of the door of the locutory next the cellar (liberum opus petrarum ostii locutorii juxta cellarium). Nails for mending certain necessities in the Trymenell. Work done

¹ Rouges or Roudge, a rough coarse cloth.

in the Oil House (Zoylhows). John Peyntour, of Thame, painting in the Trymenell with his own colours almost for a week, 20d. A glazier, of Aylesbury, mending the glass windows in divers places. Wainscots bought at Oxford. 6 cartloads of stone bought at Caversfeld, 16d. A woman hired to gather "mos" for the Infirmary and other houses next the bakehouse, as it is afore-said, in the wood of Stoke. William Skynner, gathering "mos"¹ in the park at Mudelyngton 2 days, 2d. To persons thatching and "zelmant" (yelming=flooring) pigstys among other things. To persons reaping weeds (sirpos) at the Southmede and in the field of Ambresdon and gathering the said weeds. 10*l*. 16*s*. 8½*d*.

Purchases for the kitchen—numerous items. 65 fowls bought, besides the rent of cocks and hens of Wrecchewyk, 5*s*. 2*d*. Paid to John Clerk for his corrody of the kitchen (de coquina) 26*s*.—33*l*. 5*s*.

Costs of the sheepcote.—Washing sheep, shepherd's stipends, &c., 25*s*. 9*d*.

Purchase of grain.—Some bought at Caversfeld and Stratton, 28*l*. 9*s*. 6*d*.

Purchase of stock.—Horse shoes, &c. A "baye" horse bought of the Vicar of Burncestre, 30*s*. A black horse bought of the Rector of Somerton, 100*s*. One pair of mill-stones for the windmill, 26*s*. 8*d*.—8*l*. 13*s*. 8½*d*.

Thrashing and winnowing, 91*s*. 10*d*.

Weeding, mowing, and lifting the hay.—The "Mulle-acre-mede" next the causeway (calceiam) towards Wrecchewyk is mentioned. "Given to divers parishioners at the time of the meadow, 17*d*. Given to the reapers of John Langeston at Caversfeld by the Prior, 6*d*. Various payments for hired labour. "Besides certain customary [works] from the Prior's tenants in Burncestre and Wrecchewyk," 74*s*. 5*d*.

Costs of the Autumn.—Among the names of land are—The stones towards Stratton—the furlong of Crockwell—the furlong without the gate of the upper grange—the furlong of the lower way towards Stratton—Stretfurlong—Puffes Croys—Nineacre—Cowbrygge.² To Geoffrey Yngerham mowing, and to the Vicar's clerk gathering after him. Given by the Prior to his own reapers and mowers and to other parishioners, 2*s*. 3*d*., &c., &c.—11*l*. 16*s*. 3*d*.

The Chamber of the Convent.—Delivered to the Lord Prior and Convent for their vesture at the Annunciation, 6*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*. The same at St. Michael the Archangel, 6*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*. One plumed hat for the Prior for the purpose of riding, bought at London, 2*s*. 8*d*. Sum, 12*l*. 16*s*.

Purchase of cloth for liveries.—To Thomas Drapere, of Oxford, for cloth, 6*l*. 12*s*. 1*d*. For shearing the same, by John Schereman, 3*s*. 6*d*. Black cloth bought and given to certain free servants, "ex specialitate," by the Prior in summer-time, 21*s*. 4*d*., &c.—8*l*. 3*s*. 7*d*.

Fees and stipends of free (men).—John Langeston, steward, by the year, 26*s*. 8*d*. John Corbrigge, attorney, by the year, 6*s*. 8*d*. William, the cook, 13*s*. 4*d*. Richard Barbour, 6*s*. Robert, of the kitchen, 5*s*. John, the baker, 13*s*. 4*d*.; his fellow, 8*s*.; the page there, 5*s*. And others.—9*l*. 10*s*. 3*d*.

Stipends of servants (famulorum).—Bailiffs of the upper grange, hayward, carters, drovers? (fugat), and others.—78*s*. 1½*d*.

¹ Moss was used for mixing mortar.

² See page 11 of this history.

Stipends of labourers.—Sawyers, masons, cooper, &c. Felling oaks at Bernewode. Repair of the walls about Crockwell and Horscroft, and elsewhere within the Priory. Fetching sand from Kirtlington. Mason's work over the vestry, &c., &c., 4*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*

Foreign expenses.—Expenses of the Prior at the Forest after Epiphany, 4*d.*, and before Conversion of St. Paul, 6*d.* Expenses of the same to London for a certain debt due to him from Nicholas Hawberk Knight, and to prosecute for two messuages in Curtlyngton, which John Hoggs, of the same, unjustly occupied and held, and for other matters at Bemunde, for 8 days, 30*s.*..... Expenses of the Prior at London to prosecute against the Abbess of Burnham for having a cartway from Ankerplot, 17*s.* 1½*d.* Exp. of Brother William Islepe at Thame and at Wycumbe for having speech with Edmuud Hampden for the aforesaid way, 13½*d.* Exp. of the same Brother William and John Langeston to Bemunde, at Wycumbe, and at Thame, having speech with the counsel of the Abbess of Burnham and her tenants, for hedges——unjustly (en)closed, to the injury of the Prior's tenants, 2*s.* Exp. of the same Brother William at Cudyington, for the same cause at another time, 3*d.* Expenses of the Prior at Bemunde, with other gentlemen (gentilibus), in having a day of speech for the same cause, 6*s.* 11*d.*, &c. Exp. of the Prior at Woxebregge and Wycumbe, going to the Manor of Colham to speak with the Lord Lestraunge there, 6*s.* 8*d.* Exp. of the same at Bannebury, to speak with Master John Forest, Rector of the church there, 10½*d.* Exp. of the same at London, for the Lord Lestraunge, 30*s.* 10*d.* Exp. of the same on the day when the Assizes were at Oxford, 2*s.* 10*d.* Exp. of Brother W. Islepe, at London by the Prior's command, with a gold chalice, for the purpose of borrowing (mutuandi) gold there for the Lord Lestraunge, under obligation of the same made to the Prior, and the gold was not borrowed, 10*s.* 9*d.* Exp. of the same at the fair of St. Fritheswyde, in purchasing cloth and other necessities for the House for two days and nights, 2*s.* 3½*d.* Exp. of a cart for carrying the same necessities home, 4*d.*.....

Paid to the clerk-notary of the Lord Bishop of Lincoln at Chetewode to prosecute for having a "dimission" against the parishioners of the church of Little Missenden, who prayed before the Bishop's clerks in his visitation at Wendovere, three quarters of wheat, to be distributed among the poor of the parish there, and afterwards, not wishing to prosecute further, they renounced [the same], as appears in the things found on the day of the visitation, 20*d.* Delivered to Master Andrew Newport, the Prior's proctor, for the same cause, 12*d.* For the purchase (perquisione) of the aforesaid "dimission" by the said Master Andrew Newport, 6*s.* 8*d.*, &c. Expenses of horses of the son of Lord Hugh Huls, the Justice at the house of Agnes Caversfeld, 3*d.* To the clerk of John Wylcotes, for writing a warrant for the capture of John Tyrmay, absconding from the Prior's service, 4*d.* To John Coventre, undersheriff, for the same John, 20*d.* To John Somerfield, journeying (devillant, *i.e.* going out of town) and inquiring for the same John, twice, 4*d.* Given to the gaoler of the Castle of Oxford by the same John Somerforde to imprison more strictly (ad constringendum durius) the aforesaid John (after he had been) taken, 8*d.* And the said John Tirmay was mainprised immediately by Henry Merkhham, of Elesfeld. Payments for two other warrants, one obtained at London. Expenses of John Somerford at Oxford, at the session of the Justices of the Peace, for the said John Tyrmay, 2*d.*; and in bringing him back to his office within the Priory, 16*d.* Exp. of John Somerford at Ardyngton, for rent there, and at Oxford about the affairs of the House, 4*d.* For the citation of certain parishioners of Little Missenden not tithing their sheaves, in English

called "y hoyled," according to ancient custom, who afterwards tithed, having been compelled (to do), as they used formerly, 12d. Expenses of John Somerford at Oxford to speak with Master Robert Newby, the official, for certain causes, 2d. Exp. of the clerks of the Archbishop of Canterbury "et clausi sarg," visiting at Cumpton Basset, 16d. "Expenses of proctor[s] at Parliament for the farm of our portion there this year, 5d." Exp. of John Somerford, conveying Henry Syre to Oxford Castle, he having been taken by writ, 2d..... For ale expended and given to the Prior's servants extracting free stones (libras petras) out of the walls of the Manor of the Lord Lestraunge in Burncestre, and which stones the same Lord Richard Lestraunge gave to the Prior by warrant sealed, 1d. Exp. of Hugh Sperman at Wodestok, for buying certain necessities for the carts there, but he bought nothing, 5d., &c. Sum, 10*l*. 0*s*. 11*d*.

The Prior's Gifts.—Given to John Wylcotes, steward of the Lord Earl of Stafford at Curtlyngton, for having entry into two messuages with his assistance, which messuages John Hoggs unjustly occupied in Curtlyngton, 20*s*. Given to a certain player there in the presence of the Prior and of the said John Wilcotes, 4*d*. Given to the clerk of the same for the said cause, 20*d*. Given to the workmen of the same John at Tywe, 12*d*. Given to the workmen of William Wilcotes at Wyvelcote, 20*d*. Given to William Felmeresham for the cause aforesaid against John Hoggs, 3*s*. 4*d*. Given to the wife of Lawrence Mortymere at Stratton the day of her purification, when the Prior and Roger Giffard feasted there, 3*s*. 4*d*. Given to the clerk of the chaplain of Burkenhull, bringing the gift (encennium) of a boar to the Prior, 4*d*. Given to a boy of the Prior of Newenham, coming in a certain business proposed to the church, 6*d*. Given to a certain harper of the Lord Prince, 12*d*. Given to the servant of John Purcel at Newenton, 12*d*. Given to the servants of the upper ox-stall on the night of bringing in the oxen before Advent, 4*d*. Given to two strange women of Schronesbury, begging with patents of the Lord the King, 4*d*..... Given to the workmen of John Gybbes, of Wrecchewky, renewing his horses there, 2*d*. Given to the clerks of St. Katharine and St. Nicholas in the refectory, the Prior's chamber and other offices, 12*d*. Given to certain free servants at Christmas time for their oblations, 13*d*. To Richard Cook, the Prior's tenant in Burncestre Kyngende, in aid of the payment of a fifteenth, 7*d*. To a man of the forest bringing a gift to the Prior, 4*d*. Given to John Scheperde by the Prior at Crocwell "at the view of this year's lambs," 2*d*. Given to the servant of the Vicar of Ardyngton, bringing the rent of the farm there, 6*d*. To the minstrel (or minstrels) of Burncestre, 12*d*. To Fabian, esquire of the Prior of Newenham, on Sunday "in the Passion," 3*s*. 4*d*. To Thomas Clerk, farmer of Cumpton Basset, bringing his farm-rent there, 8*d*. Various sums given in alms to poor people..... To Alice, wife of William Ferrour, on the day of her marriage, 20*d*. To the minstrel of the Lord John Cornewayle, 12*d*. To the workmen of John Langeston, at Caversfeld, 4*d*. To a man coming from Wadenho to speak with Lestraunge, 12*d*. To John Langeston's clerk, journeying towards Brackele on the business of the House, 6*d*. To the Steward of Lord Lestraunge, newly appointed, to have goodwill towards the Lord the Prior, 6*s*. 8*d*. To the hayward of Meriton, bringing a gift to the Prior, 4*d*. To a strange minstrel, 4*d*. To the clerk of the Justice of the Forest on the day of his session at Burncestre for the forest, 8*d*. To certain tailors of Don George Newers, against the day of his marriage, sewing garments, 4*d*. To the tilers of John Langeston, at Caversfield, 4*d*. To arrows made by John Flecchere for gifts, 16*d*. To Nicholas Weston, of Arnecote, bringing venison for a gift to the Prior, 8*d*. Given to the

forest[er] at Bernewode, 2od. To the page of the Park of Wodestoke, bringing a gift to the Prior at a time when the Prior was there, 4d. To Robert, son of Henry Bowell, at the same time at Curtlyngton, in returning from Wyvelcote, 12d. To Isabella Sadelere, because of the killing of her dog, 4d. To a page of the forest bringing a gift to the Prior, 8d. To the servant of John Brian, of Islepe, bringing a gift to the Prior, 4d. Sum, 76s. 5d.

Further allowances.—They pray to be allowed for two "toddes," besides 4lb. of tithe wool placed in the Prior's custody on account of the dispute (rixa) between the Rector of Twyford and Lawrence Mortymere, farmer, of Stratton, 21s. 4d. Allowed to the aforesaid Lawrence for repair of tenements at his first entry into the aforesaid farm of Stratton, 53s. 4d. Condoned to the same of the rent [due] at St. Thomas the Apostle this year, 5s. 4d. Sum, 4l.

Sum total of all expenses, 200l. 17s. 13¼d. And so the receipts exceed the expenses 12l. 6s. 1¼d.

1412.

Account of Lord Richard Parantyn, Prior, and Brother William Islepe, Subprior, Bursars there, of all the good..... from the morrow of St. Michael 13th to the same day [14th] Henry IV.

[This account is similar to 55-56.]

Rents with farms [mostly as before].—4s. 2d. from land demised to be sown in the field of Burncestre. 10d. from John Asebrook for land demised to the same in the same field. 20d. from John Sperman, collector of rents at Wrecchewyk of the arrears of the last account. 31l. 16s. 0½d. received from the Rectory of Stratton, as appears by the account of Thomas Northcote, bailiff there. 60s. from John Langeston, for the farm of Caversfeld. 100s. from the farm of Arnekote, demised to John Chambre, Junior, by indenture for a term of 7 years. Rent in Curtlyngton [as before]; also 3s. 4d., the profit of two tenements there which John Hogges sometime unjustly detained. 80s. from the mill within the Priory. "Of the windmill nothing this year, because henceforth by the Prior's consent it is demised to endow? (ad... tand dotand?) the chantry of William Hayle." 5s. from half a virgate of land with half an acre of meadow in Longe Dolemede, demised to Richard Cook by copy of Court [roll] for term of life [according to?] the tenure of his tenement in Burncestre Kyngende. 5s. 6d. from land demised in the field of Burncestre to various persons. Sum, 165l. 20d.

Issues of the Manor and Kitchen.—19l. 2s. 10½d.

Sale of herbage.—(Northmede, the road called Oxoneforde, Buckenhulle-brugge, the Mulneham, the Medeacres, Kyngedenham, Losemore, Redemore, Oldedyk, brook of Bygenhull, Langeford, the Slade outside Burncestre towards Stratton, the Prior's lands of Sladefurlong, meadow of Gurefen, and two hams of meadow in Wendulbury.)—Sum, 4l. os. 5d.

Foreign receipts.—8d. from the close of Crokwell, with houses there demised to Robert Chalyngwurth. 3s. 6d. received in the collection of tithe lambs in the parish[es] of Burncestre, Bygenhull, and Wrecchewyk. "2s. 9d. received from certain expenses of the Abbot of Nottele, besides 3s. 11d. given by the same [Abbot] to the work of the new roof over the high altar this year." Animals and hay sold, &c. Sum, 50s. 2¼d.

Perquisites of Courts..... 26s. 8d. from Agnes Bloxham, of a fine for entry into a tenement in Burncestre, which she formerly took for 10 years: to hold for life according to the custom of the Manor. 8s. from Thomas Solere, for entry into one messuage with half a virgate of land, which John Chambre, Senior, formerly held in Arnecote, as appears in the roll of the Court holden there. 13s. 4d. from John Danyel, Senior, of a fine for entering into a messuage with a virgate of land in Arnecote called Helhowse, and in old time it was called Goldynes, which Agnes Huchyns held by indenture and surrendered into the Lord's hands, as appears in the said Court. 3s. 8d. from the estreats of a court holden at Burncestre. Sum, 4*l*. 8s. 4d.

Sum of the whole receipt, with arrears, 220*l*. 8s. 5d.

Repayments and allowances.—To the Lord Lestrange and the Lord of Bygenhull (as before). Also, paid to the latter for the tenement which John Gent holds, 20d. To the Lady Countess of Stafford for a "helowe" of a certain house at Curtlyngton, 2d. To the same of new rent for this now the fourth year; and how this rent first began appears in the roll of Account of the three years preceding, 10d.; to William Neuman, collector of the rent of Curtlyngton, 4s..... Allowed to the rent-collector of Wrecchewyk, condoned to the tenants there in aid of the payments of their fifteenth of the Prior's gift this year, 6s. 8d. Allowed to Thomas Fayrher, farmer, of Ardyngton, for repair of the rectory there this year (in part payment of 4*l*. for the said repair), 26s. 8d. For the tenement which William Erliche lately held at the end of the town next the hermitage, it being vacant for one term this year, 12d. Sum, 4*l*. 7s. 9d.

Yearly pensions [as before], 13*l*. 13s. 4d.

Tenths and procurations.—Paid to the Prior of St. Fritheswide for two moieties of one tenth granted to our Lord the King in the Archdeaconries of Oxford and Bucks., 6*l*. 9s. To the Archdeacon of Oxford for procuration of the parish church of Burncestre, by the year, 7s. 7¾d. To the same, for the synod of Easter and St. Michael, 3s. For a moiety of the tithes of Cumption Basset this year, 5s. 4d. "Paid to the Prior of St. Bartholomew's, London, for a certain subsidy to him, granted by the Chapter General at Northampton last celebrated, viz., from every pound of spiritual goods tazed, and likewise temporal, on account of his great labour and the expenses which he had beyond sea in the election of Pope Alexander, 3s. 5d." Sum, 7*l*. 8s. 4¾d.

Debts acquitted.—For fish bought at Oxford, against the Lord Archbishop's visitation, 2s. 10d. To Thomas Drapere, of Burncestre, for the cloth of a hood given to the wife of John Donesmore, 14½d. To Andrew, the swineherd, of arrears of his stipend, 5s. 7d. To John Brugge, of Stratton, for 4 oxen, 2 draught beasts, and 36 sheep bought for the office of the kitchen; and for a sow with 3 pigs, and for a certain debt to the Vicar of Weston, as appears by a bill, 6*l*.; and there are still owing to the same by the said bill, 29s. 2d. Paid to the Prior for his old debt for the time when he lay very ill ("in valida egritudine") at Abyndon, 91s. 11d., &c. Sum, 13*l*. 12s. 9d.

Cost of ploughs and carts.—Wheels and cart bought at Aylesbury; wheels bought at Buckingham and at the fair of Thame. To the smith of Mudelyngton mending the iron wheels against Sterusbrugge, 10d.

Small necessities.—Parchment for a terrier and a certain rental at Stratton, for the court rolls, accounts, &c., bought at Oxford, 2s. 5d. Expenses in the Prior's stable. "Mattes" for the chapter-house, 12d. Rat-bane for destroying rats, 1d. Repair of two pairs of bottles for wine, at Oxford, 7d. Repair of cellar-bottles (*utrium de celario*), and of leather bottles made for ale by a man of Wodestok, 16d. 4 little sacks for putting the court rolls in, 14d. For rushes for the chambers and the Prior's hall, 2d. &c., &c.—28s. 8d.

Small household expenses.—13¼ ells of linen cloth for 2 napkins for the Refectory, 4s. 7d. 30 ells of linen cloth for sheets. for the chambers of the Prior's hall and for other chambers of guests, 15s. &c., &c. 6lb. wax for "torteys" (torches) for the Prior's hall, 2s. 6d.; "roseyn" for the same, 1d.; "weke" (wick) for the same, 3d. 3 earthen pots (*ollis*) for the Prior's hall, 3d. 1 flagon (*lagena*) of "Romenye," with the filling of bottles bought at Oxford, for John Purcel, Henry Barton, and their wives, feasting with the Prior on the first Sunday of Advent, 18d. One flagon of another old wine, with 1½ flagon of red wine, bought there for John Willecotes and other gentlemen, &c., 2s. 6d.—Sum, 6*l.* 17s.

Costs of houses.—Making anew the door next the mill within the Priory. Doors at the house of the shepherd of Wrecchewyk. Mending the wall of the porch (*porticus*) of the great barn. Stone-work about the ceiling ("cymours" or *cytours*, the *cyling* or ceiling) of the swineherd's house, &c.—Sum, 62s. 3d.

Costs of the work of the new roof over the high altar, besides 20 marks, 8s. 6d., of the gifts of the Prior and Convent and of other men, received and expended about the aforesaid work, as in hiring of carpenters, purchase of timber, sawing and carrying of the same, and other divers costs and expenses, as appears by a bill proved upon this account by the Subprior and Brother Richard Albon. To William, the carpenter, hired for 11 weeks, 18s. 4d. Nails, 9s. 10d. To the free mason of Eyngesham, hired for 4 weeks and 1 day, 8s.; to his fellow, 3 weeks and half a day, 5s. 1d. To John Benhull, hired "in the other stone work there" for 7½ days, 22d. To William Skynnere, serving the said mason 11 days, 12d., &c. Lime (*calce*) bought at Weston, 8s. "Chalk" bought at Aylesbury and Thame, 9½d. And in 1lb. of gold leaf ("et in j. C. auri ptiti"), bought at Oxford, 3s. 2d. Divers colours bought at London, 10s. 7½d. Oil and colours bought of John Peyntour, of Thame, 2s. Oil bought of the painter of Bannebury, 1d. "Glew," 2d. Fragments of white leather bought at Oxford, "ad coquend pro Cole," 8d. To John the painter, of Thame, hired to paint for 2½ weeks, 6s. To Peter the painter, of Bannebury, hired to paint for 8½ days, 2s. 4d. To another strange painter of the same town, for 4½ days, 10d. For "takkets," 1d. One pair of shoes bought and given to John the painter, of Thame, 11d. Given to John the carpenter, of Brackele, to buy gloves, 6d. 1lb. of "orpement," bought at London, 3s. 2½lb. of "deep ynde bawdas," bought there, 4s. 2d. 17lb. of red lead, bought there, 3s. 2lb. of white lead, bought there, 3d.

Sum.—4*l.* os. 10½d.

Expenses of the kitchen.—Various spices bought at Oxford in the fair of St. Fritheswyde. Red herrings bought at Northampton. Oysters and fish bought at Oxford. John Wilkotes, John Langeston, and other gentlemen feasting with the Prior. Salmon, &c., bought at Bannebury. 5 great "millewett,"¹ bought of John the plumber, of Schenle. "1lb. of hard fish bought of the fisherman de Buk'" (Buckingham).—Sum, 49*l.* os. 4d.

¹ Cod fish or ling.

Costs of the sheepcote, 17s. Purchase of grain, 54s. 8d. Purchase of stock (including a black palfrey bought at Buckingham for the Prior's stable for 40s.), 4*l.* 4s. 2d.

Weeding, mowing, and lifting the hay. (Names of meadows, &c.) 63s. 8½*d.* Costs of harvest, various persons and localities mentioned, 11*l.* 10s. 7d. Threshing and winnowing, 11*l.* 16s. 1½*d.*

The Convent Chamber.—Paid to the Prior and Convent for their clothing at the term of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary, 113s. 4d. Paid to the same at the term of St. Michael, 113s. 4d. For a hat against rain (*pilio pluviali*) brought for the Prior, 4s. 6 ells of linen cloth bought for making two rochets for Brothers Geoffrey Stratton, and John Wanetynge, on account of the spoiling (*deterioratione*) of their rochets about the work of the new roof over the high altar, 3s. 6d. Given to John Wantynge, being still in lower orders ("*infra ordines*"), for buying divers necessities for himself, 23½*d.*—Sum, 11*l.* 16s. 1½*d.*

Liveries of esquires, yeomen, grooms, &c.—4*l.* 14s. 7d.

Fees and stipends of freemen.—Steward of the Court, attorney, cooks, bakers, tailor, groom of the Prior's stable, boy of the Prior's chamber, laundress, &c.—Sum, 10*l.* 10d.

Stipends of servants (*famulorum*).—Bailiff of the upper grange, hayward, carters, drover, plough holder, swineherd, &c.—Sum, 103s. 11½*d.*

Stipends of labourers.—Smith, cooper, tinker; work done in the church, in the "Trymenell" and elsewhere; women, &c.—79s. 9d.

Foreign expenses.—Expenses of John Asebrook (going) to Wodesden on the business of the house, 2d. Expenses of the Prior with his men at the fairs of Oxford, staying there for the night, and for 2 days, 5s. 5d. Expenses of John Giles at Oxford, to Master Robert Newby, for procuration to the Convocation of clergy at London in Advent, 3½*d.* Expenses of Brother William Islepe, Subprior, and Richard Albion, in holding a day at Dunstyw against Thomas son of John Zerman, who wished to withdraw the rent of a virgate of land in Dedyngton, &c. Expenses of Brother Ric. Albion with his men to Bemunde, and returning thence, for selling timber there, after Epiphany, 12d. Expenses of the Prior to Oxford, to speak with William Somerton, undersheriff, and others, for the affairs of the house, 2s. 7d. Expenses of the horses of John the Canon of Caldwelle, in the town of Burncestre, 6½*d.* Expenses of the Prior at Bernewode in viewing the "mere-stones" between the wood of the Abbot of Oseyene and the wood of the same Prior, of old time placed, concerning which a dispute had arisen, 6d. For all manner of expenses and wine bought at Oxford against the coming of the Commissioners of the Lord Archbishop in circuit, sitting upon the things found on the morrow of Ash [Wednes]day, 11s. 4½*d.* (Dadington, Grimsbury, Wescote.) Expenses of John Giles at Oxford before Pentecost, for deal boards¹ for the new roof of the choir, in not fetching them (*non expediendo*), 3d. Expenses of the same there in Pentecost, with a cart for improving and carting the same, 4½*d.* Expenses of John Giles to London, for paying a moiety of the tenth to the Lord the King for the expedition of the Duke of Clarence over the sea, 2s. 6d. Expenses of the Prior at London for the purpose of preventing the Vicar of Burncestre exchanging with Master Geoffrey Dankeport, clerk, of Oxford, who was accused of many misdoings (*maleficiis*), as it was certified by persons known to and friends of the Prior,

¹ "Tabul estrigg" Estrich was the name for deal boards exported from the Eastern counties.

24s. 8½d. Expenses of the Subprior at Stratton, to buy sheep there of John Brugge, 1½d. Expenses of Brother Richard Albion at Arnecote, to examine and investigate concerning the land of our Lordship and of our tenants there, at sundry times, &c.—Sum, 112s. 7d.

The Prior's gifts.—Given to the taker of poultry of the Lord Prince, 20d.; to the Warrener of Hals, bringing rabbits for the feast on the first Sunday of Advent, 6d.; to John Snareston, bailiff of the Lordship of Wodestoke, in Advent, 3s. 4d.; to the clerks of the parish church on the nights of St. Katherine and St. Nicholas, in the Prior's chamber, refectory, cellar, and kitchen, 14d.; to the poor at times this year, 8d.; to the Hermit of Burncestre for alms, 4d.; to the wife of the Cook of the Priory after her marriage, 12d.; to a messenger of the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, 12d.; to Master Thomas Bromiz, commissary of the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, before Lent, 13s. 4d. For gloves furred, double and single, bought at Oxford, and given to gentle men and women, to the Sheriff, Master Robert Newby, and other officials of the Bishop of Lincoln, 5s. 3d. Given to the minstrels of the Lord Furnevale, 12d.; given to the parishioners of Burncestre and Wrecchewyk, cleaning the river against Langeford, because of the flood which happened at the beginning of hay-making this year, 4d.; to the son of Henry Bowell, for that the Prior should have undertaken for him (*suscepisset eum*) at the holy font, and could not come, 3s. 4d.; 2 pair of hose bought and given to two clerks of Oxford to procure a Master of Grammar in the Priory, for the instruction of the Canons, 2s. 2d. Given to the messenger of the Bishop of Lincoln, after Pentecost, 12d. Given to a certain priest coming from the business of the Rector of Est Henrede to the Prior, 20d.; to Thomas the Baker of the Lord Prince, and to another yeoman (*valletto*) of the same, 20d.; to William Duk, to watch over the flock of sheep one night after their washing, 1d.; to William Somerton, undersheriff of Oxford, 6s. 8d.; to a minstrel (or minstrels) on the day when the Prior banqueted with Henry Barthone, 12d.; to a clerk of Oxford, on the day of the agreement made with him, to teach grammar within the Priory 12d.; to 2 foresters of Bernewode, on Sunday after St. Augustine, 20d.; to the groom of the Forest at the same time, 4d.; to Thomas, farmer of Cumption Basset, bringing the rent of his farm there, 4d.; to the workmen of John Langeston, of Caversfeld, 4d.; to the tilers of Robert James at Bygenhull, 3d.; to the Commissaries of the Lord Archbishop in his Visitation on the matters taken notice of, 3s. 4d.; to the bearer of a letter touching the coming of the Bishop of Lincoln, who being hindered came not, 8d., &c. Sum, 4*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*

Sum of all expenses.—179*l.* 8*s.* 13¼*d.*

And so the receipts exceed the expenses—41*l.* 0*s.* 3¼*d.*

1425.

"The Account of the Lord Richard Parentyn, Prior, and Brother Richard Albion, Canon and Bursar there, of all goods received and delivered by the same, from the morrow of St. Michael the Archangel in the IIIrd year of the reign of King Henry the VIth after the Conquest, to the said morrow in the IVth year of the same king."

This account is given in "Kennett's Par. Ant." under the above-named year, and is translated in Appendix No. V. of "Dunkin's History of Bicester."

1433-34

Account of the Lord Richard Parentyn, Prior, and Brother William Marton, Canon, Bursars, of all goods touching the Priory of Burcestre by them received and delivered, from the morrow of St. Michael the Archangel, in the eleventh year of the reign of King Henry the Sixth after the Conquest, to the Feast of Easter then next following. And also the account of the Lord John, Prior, and Robert Lawton, Canon, Bursars, succeeding there, from the feast of Easter aforesaid to the said feast of St. Michael in the twelfth year of the King aforesaid; both accounts being united and likewise contained in the same roll.

Curtlyngton.—A red rose received at the feast of St. John the Baptist, for certain lands and tenements, which Henry Bowell holds in the town and in the fields of Curtlyngton by indenture.

Newnton.—A grain of clove received on Easter Day for certain lands and tenements there formerly of Roger de Stodele, and lately appropriated to John Purcell and his heirs for ever.

Pouhele.—“Whereof nothing this year, because there was no vacancy there, nor removal of Prior.”

Arrears from the preceding account.—22*l.* 17*s.* 8½*d.*

Rents with farms.—4*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* received from the rent of 14 tenements in Burcestre, as by the rental thereof made it is plainly expressed. 6*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* received from the horse-mill situate within the Priory, with all kind of emoluments arising therefrom this year, being in [our] own hands. 26*s.* 8*d.* received from the watermill there opposite, demised to farm this year. 4*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* received from the rent of tenements in Wrecchewyk this year. 26*s.* received from tofts and crofts vacant there this year, and not more, because several are in the Lord's hands. 43*s.* 3*d.* from vacant lands, meadows, and pastures “being in such fields, and not more, on account of the poverty of tenants, and also many and very many (multe et quamplurime) lands lay untilled.¹ 6*l.* from the farm of the close le Breche. 9*s.* from the new close next Gravenhull, demised to farm. 17*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* from the grange of Stratton, and so much less because divers grain and other moneys (denariata) were brought to [the Priory?] and assigned to the Lord's use. 34*l.* 10*s.* 11¼*d.* received from Dadyngton, Clifton, and Hempton, &c. 60*s.* received from the farm of Caversfeld. 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* from the farm of Grymmysbury. 28*s.* 8*d.* from the farm of Blakenhull, in the parish of Wodesden. 63*s.* 5½*d.* from the rent of Westcote, &c. 4*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* from the rent of Arnekote, with hidage and the site of the Manor, and with the demesne lands and meadows there. 2*s.* from the rent of the Mill of Fryngford. 14(?)*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* from the farm of Bemount. 4*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* from the rent of Curtlyngton. 16*l.* from the farm of the Church of Ardyngton. 4*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* from the farm of Letecumbe, and no more, because of the falling off of the rent. 106*s.* 8*d.* from the farm of our portion in Cumpton Bassett. 18*s.* from rent in Wendelbury. 55*s.* 4*d.* from the rent in Tackele. 40*s.* from the farm of Mydlyngton. From Besyngton, nothing.—Sum, 155*l.* 0*s.* 8¾*d.*

Issues of the manor and kitchen.—Stock, grain, straw, hides, &c., sold.—Sum, 26*l.* 15*s.* 4½*d.*

Issues of the sheepcote.—Sum, 68*s.* 8½*d.*

Foreign receipts.—6*s.* 8*d.* from a small horse (equo pusillo), the mortuary of Matilda, relict of William Dyamount, sold this year; 3*s.* from a mare, the mortuary of the wife of William

¹ See page 12 of this history.

Skerne, sold to the same William. 8s. from fuel and underwood felled and sold at Bemount by the farmer there. 16d. from the tithe of lambs in Burncester, Bygynhull, and Wrecchewyk, in the collection of tithe-lambs there this year.—Sum, 19s.

Lease of land with sale of herbage.—The field of Burcestre, Northmeed, Slade Furlong towards Stratton, le Twyfold More, Stodefod, Morebrugge Meed, le Meed acrys this side of Langeford, Long Dolemeed, Schort Dole Meed, Northammys, Lytul Meed, Wrecchewyk, Crofts, Bygunhull broke, the little ham (parva Hamma) Wylton Crofte, Kyngedenham, Losemore, the demesne meadow of Bygenhull beyond Kyngedenham, Aylmensmeed, meadow of Guryfen.¹ Tithes of hay in some of the above-named meadows.—Sum, 4*l.* 19s. 9d.

Perquisites of Courts.—13s. 4d. from a man of Dadyngton, &c. Of estreats of Courts in Burcester and Wrecchewyk, nothing, because remission was made to the delinquents.

Sum.—13s. 4d.

Sum of the whole receipt, with the arrears.—214*l.* 9s. 7¼d.

Repayments and allowances.—Repaid to Lord Lestraunge for (the) Mullepece, 8s. 4d. Paid to the Lord of Bygenhull for le Felde pece lying without the country gate of the said Priory, by the year, 6s. 8d. [This sum is struck out, and the following words are written between the lines: "nothing, because it is released by John Stokes, to whose soul God be merciful, Amen"]; to the same for a tenement in the lane situate in Burcestre Kyngende, by the year, 20d. (Dadyngton). ; to the Lady the Queen for a certain "Helowe Walle" of a tenement in Curtlyngton, situate upon her lordship there, by the year, 2d. ; to the same of new rent of two tenements there, 10d. ; to the rent-collector there "for the stipend of his labour," 4s. ; to the Lady the Queen for amercements for default of doing suit at her court there holden this year, 6d. ; to the rent-collector of Wrecchewyk and for his labour on vacant lands there this year, 6s. 8d. Allowed for a certain tenement there late of John Chesterton, vacant for the half of this year, 6s. 8d. Allowed for a certain tenement in Burcestre Kyngende, late of Roger Calcote, vacant for the whole year, 8s. 3d. Allowed for the tenement aforesaid situate in the lane, vacant for the half of this year, 2s. Allowed for the tenement of Thomas Webbe, who appropriated it for term of life without paying rent, by virtue of his corrody, 10s. Allowed for the tenement of Joan Sperman, who is fallen into such want (inedia) that she has not whereof to make payment to the Lord, by the year, 5s.—Sum, 60s. 21d.

Yearly pensions.—Paid to the Abbot of Osney, for his pension, at two terms, 60s. Of the pension of the Abbot of Eynesham, nothing this year, because the same Abbot is indebted to the Prior in so much, and what [is] over of the two. for the King's tenth. Paid to the Prior of St. Anne of the Carthusian Order next Coventry, for the pension formerly the Abbot of Aulney's in Curtlyngton, 40s. Paid to the Abbot of Messenden for the fee-farm of Arnecote, as appears by two aquittances, 6*l.* 12s. 4d. Paid to the Sheriff of Oxford, for "le Schyrewyzt" this year, 4s.—Sum, 11*l.* 17s. 4d.

Tenths and procurations.—Paid to the Abbot of Thame for the second moiety of one tenth granted by the clergy to our Lord the King, for spirituals and temporals, in the Archdeaconry of Oxford, the collector deputed, 48s. 6d. ; for the second moiety of the tenth granted for spirituals and temporals in the Archdeaconry of Bucks, this year, 18s. 6d. ; for the fifteenth of the tenants of Wrecchewyk, for their relief this year, 3s. 4d. ; for the procuration of the Lord

¹ See page 11 of this history.

Pope, with the acquittance this year, 7s. 2d.; to the Lord Archdeacon for his procuration touching the parish church of Burcester, 7s. 7¼d.; to the same Lord Archdeacon, for synodals, at Easter and St. Michael, 3s.—Sum, 4l. 8s. 1¾d.

Debts acquitted.—Paid to John Milton for divers things, viz., honey, oil, tallow, and other things appertaining to the kitchen, due to the said John for the time of William Chesterton, while he was in the office of the kitchen, 5s. 9d.; to John Buntyng, apothecary, for spices, soap (smigmate), and oil fit for the painters, 19d.; to another apothecary of Oxford, by name Hayle, for divers ointments and plasters (emplastris), bought by Bawdewyn, and by his fault not acquitted, owing to the Prior's infirmity, 4s. 3d.—Sum, 11s. 7d.

Costs of ploughs and carts.—One pair of wheels called "Schoers" bought of John Pope, 7s. Work done by him, &c. Paid to the smith of Burcestre, 12s. 11d. 206lb. of Spanish iron bought at Sterusbrugge, 11s. 4d., &c.—Sum, 4l. 6s. 11½d.

Paid to the smith of Langeton, for shoeing the horses of the Prior's stable, 9s. 6d., &c. Sum, 10s. 6d.

Small necessities.—Fair at Sterusbrugge mentioned. Among other things bought there were hair-cloth (cilicium) and sack-cloth (sakchothe).—Sum, 64s. 6½d.

Small things of the household.—Bread, cheese, &c. Wine bought for the Prior and other great men coming in at times, 12s. 1d. Ale for the Prior and others feasting with him at times, 20s. 8d. 2lbs. of confections, 2s. 4d. 1lb. buckwheat(?), 4d. 4lbs. load of quince ("chardequynse") for the Prior's use, 3s. ? "In aqua vite" liquorice and other powder for dissolving of stone," 7d. Linen cloth for sheets, for napkins for the refectory, &c.—Sum, 66s. 6d.

Costs of houses.—One trunk bought at Stratton, for making boards of it, 13d. Stone bought at the quarry of Caversfeld for making walls, 3½d. 3 cartloads of hay..... bought at Mersche, for thatching houses, 18d. 300 shingles, 2s. 2d. 1000 large tiles bought at Cherlton, 6s. 8d. To William Horshale with his son, hired for 24 days to tile and amend the defects of the house, 9s. Repairs of the tenements, &c. Various persons employed in thatching (stipant); one at Crockewell. Paid for making a stair-case (gradus), constructed of stone-work, to wit, that of which the door opens into the cloister and leads from the cloister to what is called "Hyksmyth Chamber," with carpenter's work to the same belonging, with the workmanship and placing of a couple of beams in the same, and with the tiling and covering of almost the whole of the western part of the same chamber, 23s. 4d.

Sum.—57(?)s. 9½d.

Expenses of the kitchen.—Oxen, cows, sheep, hogs, geese, capons, red herring, white herring, salmon, eels, green fish, viz., "lyng," and "mylwell," fish, spices, vinegar, salt, tallow, candlewick, knives, called "lechyngknyvys," &c. Some of the cattle were bought at Stratton, Brackley, and Blakethorn. Fish bought at Wantynge and at the fair of Sterusbrugge. Paid for the exchange of old plate (electri),¹ and purchase of new, of divers sorts.....

Sum.—56l. 12s. 6½d.

Costs of the sheepcote.—Sum, 22s. 10d.

Purchase of grain.—Sum, 4l. 13s. 3d.

¹ A species of "strong waters" or what we now call "spirits," invented probably as early as the XIIIth century. It was not brandy, or what we now know by that name (brent or burnt wine) derived from the method of its manufacture.

² Electrum was the name of a mixed metal fabricated as early as the time of Pliny: The original compound was 4 parts of gold and 1 of silver, but this in use in the Priory was probably brass and tin, or pewter.

Purchase of stock.—For one horse bought at Richard Gervery's this year, and "exhibited" to the Lord Lestraunge by the Convent after the Prior's decease, 40s. Other horses, a cow, a calf, 8 pigs, a sow, another sow with 6 pigs, 12 young cocks.—Sum, 9*l*. 12s. 8½*d*.

Weeding, mowing, and hay-lifting.—The demesne meadows—named. Part mown by the customers of Wrechewyk. (&c.)—Sum, 59s. 3*d*.

Costs of harvest.—Various persons, fields, &c., mentioned; among others, "one acre of St. Edburga"; "one acre and four buttys lying at Puffes Crosse."—Sum, 11*l*. 8s. 7½*d*.

Threshing and winnowing.—Tithe of Wrecchewyk mentioned.—Sum, 108s. 7*d*.

Chamber of the Convent.—Paid to the Prior and Convent for their habit and vesture, for the term of Annunciation, 6*l*. 13s. 4*d*.; at Michaelmas, 6*l*. Given to Brother William Burcestre, besides his habit, of courtesy (ex curialitate), he being needy by reason of very great expenses on account of his infirmity, 20*d*. Paid to Brother John Gybbys, besides his habit, he labouring diligently for the Prior's illness, 20*d*. Distributed to the Convent at the desire and request of the Prior, after his decease, this year, 53s. 4*d*.—Sum, 15*l*. 10s.

Purchase of cloth.—3 yards of striped cloth bought and given of courtesy to the Prior's gentleman besides his livery, 5s. 1½ yard of cloth of green colour, stretched ("intensi"), bought for the same, appertaining to the said striped cloth, for making a gown (toga bibartita) thereof, 3s. 1½ yard of green cloth, not stretched (remissi) bought for making a gown (toga) for Palmer, 2s. 6*d*. 6 yards of "blanket" bought for making "lynings," 4s. 9½*d*. Cloth bought for the general livery as well to gentlemen as to yeomen and servants, 11*l*.—Sum, 11*l*. 15s. 3½*d*.

Stipends of labourers.—To two men of Fryngford, making hedges at le Breche and the sheepfold of Wrecchewyk, 4 days, 15*d*. To a man named Peter Hegger, cutting down thorns and underwood in Gravenhull, and making a hedge between Weston Crofts and the tenement of John Castell, 5 days, 10*d*. To 4 men of Stratton, making a wall opposite the barn, 1 day, 10*d*. To John Ryce with his servant, making a circle of carpenter's work round the edge of the well of the kitchen, 6 days, 3s. To two women milking cows and making curds (or milk cheeses) (lacticinia). To a man of Mudlyngton, mending the oven for 3 days, 7*d*. To a certain man of Arnecote, felling and cutting fuel for the kitchen at Bernewode, twice this year, 2s. A man and a woman hired to drive the plough. To John at Mulle, hired for 23 days at divers times to make walls and repair old partition walls fallen down and going to ruin, 3s. 10*d*. To John of Mulle, making a pavement with rubbish (rudere) to absorb and pass off (ad sorbendum et evadendum) the water in the kitchen garden, 4 days, 8*d*.. &c.—Sum, 42s. 11*d*.

Fees and stipends of free men.—Fee of John Langeston, Steward of the Prior, to hold his Courts, 26s. 8*d*. Fee of William Saleman, the Prior's attorney at London, for suing out writs, 6s. 8*d*. Stipend of William Baldyngton, the Prior's gentleman, 20s. Stipend of John Bowdewyn, for the first quarter of this year, 4s., and so he departed. Stipend of John Chambour, being in the Prior's chamber, 13s. 4*d*. Stipend of Richard Botyler, 16s. Stipend of Reginald the cook, 33s. 4*d*. John Andrew, the baker, 20s. Alice, his wife, malt-drier, 6s. William Gulde, the conventual barber, 6s. 8*d*. John Hance, the conventual tailor, 4s. Emma at Mulle, making (?) the intestines or entrails of beasts of all kinds killed in the kitchen, 20*d*. Helena White, the conventual laundress, 6s. All kinds of necessities bought for Thomas Jones, stableman of the Prior's horses, as he had need, besides the vesture of livery, 8s. 5*d*. For linens, woollens, shoeing

and other things whatsoever necessary for the body, bought for Thomas Palmer, the boy of the Prior's chamber, 6s. 0½d. Divers necessities bought for John Palmer, boy of the kitchen, 4s. 10½d. Necessaries for William Smyth, in the kitchen, he being scullion, 3s. 6½d. Paid to Richard Marton, attending on the Prior, 7s. 6d. John Flode, carpenter, 13s. 4d.

Sum.—10l. 8s. 0½d.

Stipends of household servants.—Thomas Coke, bailiff of the Upper Grange, and keeper of the granary there, 10s. John Padbury, hayward, 26s. 8d. Thomas, the carter, 16s. 1d. William Rolfe, another carter, for the first quarter, and afterwards he went away, 5s. William at the Corner, plough-holder (tentor aratri), and supplying the place of the said carter departed, 16s. Geoffrey Hogg (or Hogges), plough-holder for half the year, and for the other half he was swineherd, 11s. 6d. William Lethenard, plough-holder, 16s. John Geffes, plough-driver (fugator aratri), 16s. John Horsley, 3 quarters, 14s. John Goldffynche, plough-driver, 16s. John Thommys, oxherd, 13s. 4d. Stipend of John of Mulle, being in covenant not fully for a quarter, because he could not stay and continue on account of infirmity, 20d. Stipend of Thomas Bawdewin, from the Purification to Michaelmas, for driving the plough and doing other servile works, 10s. Stipend of Richard Jamys, swineherd for a time and doing other servile works, 7s.

Sum.—8l. 19s. 3d.

Foreign expenses.—Expenses of the Prior with 6 horses to Oxford and staying overnight there, on the feast of SS. Simon and Jude, for the purpose of seeking a remedy for his infirmity, 6s. 3½d.; expenses of Brother William Marton there, on the feast of Katharine, to account and make payment to certain apothecaries for divers things bought from them, 6d.; expenses of Brother John Gybbys there and elsewhere, at divers times, for medicines and cure to be administered to the Prior's infirmity, 6s. 5½d.; expenses of William Baldyngton at Oxford and elsewhere for the like and other affairs appertaining to the common advantage, 2s. 4d.; medicines bought for curing the Prior, althought of no avail, 19s. 5½d.; expenses of Brother John Wantynge, in the county "Wyldeschyre," to confer with the Council of the Bishop of Salisbury, and to show evidences to the same touching the Rectory of Cumpton, at the suit of the Rector there, who claims and challenges a certain parcel of the tithe-sheaves which appertains to the Priory of Burcestre, and it has been in possession from time immemorial, 2s. 6d.; expenses of the same with some assistants in fishing beyond Blakethorne in Lent, 8d.; expenses of the Prior at Bernewoode after Pentecost, for the purpose of roving (causa speciandi) and hunting there, 20d.; expenses of the Prior at Bark' to confer with Master Thomas Bekyngton and John Gullofre for certain difficult matters appertaining to the common advantage, twice this year, 22s. 1d.; expenses of Brother William Chestreton with three carts to Remount, and thence, for charcoal (prunis) there burnt, 3s. 6½d.; expenses of the Prior at the fair of Sterusburge, to buy victuals, as appears in the kitchen expenses, with cost of carriage thence, 32s. 8d. Other expenses of persons going to Dadyngton, Buckyngham, Banbury, and London.—Sum 111s. 3½d.

Costs of the burial of the Prior.—Paid to Richard Burcestre making and ornamenting the "herse" over the Prior's tomb, against the trental day after his death, 4d. In two great wax (tapers) weighing 23lb., bought to burn about the tomb of the same, besides other two bought at the costs of the Sacristy, of the same weight, 7s. 1d. Given to four poor men holding the same at the funeral and mass of the same, 8d. Two wax (tapers) ornamented with leaves and flowers of divers colours impressed on the same, hired, with the waste of same, with the hire of two

copper candlesticks, 5s. Expenses of persons obtaining these at Oxford, 9d. Two oxen bought for feeding persons invited and others arriving, 46s. 8d. 9 calves bought, besides 2 of [our] own stock, 17s. 3d. 1 sheep bought, besides 1 of [our] own stock, 2s., and besides lambs of [our] own stock. Five hogs bought, besides 7 of the stock, 11s. 6d. 23 pigs bought, besides 9 of the stock, 8s. 3d. 25 goslings (aucul') bought 3s. 8 doz. pigeons bought, besides the stock, 2s. 10d. 9 fowls bought, 9d. Of capons, 24 of the stock. 3 couple of rabbits bought, besides many obtained, 12d. 2 couple of herons bought, 6d. Eggs bought, 8d. Stale bread (in pane trito) bought for the magnates, 2s. 6d. 24 quarts of ale bought, besides [our] own brewing, 4s. 11 flagons (lagen) of red wine, with 1 quart (quarta) of vinegar, 7s. 7d. Spices, viz., 3lb. of dates, 6d.; 2lb. of "reysons de coraunce," 18d.; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of "saunders," 11d.; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of cinnamon, 16d.; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. pepper, 11d.; $\frac{1}{2}$ quart (quart') of cloves, 6d.; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of "annys" 4d.; $\frac{1}{2}$ "quartron" of saffron, 3s. 7d. Given to 3 cooks for their labour, preparing the food, 3s. 10d.; 3 yards of linen cloth bought and given to the same for "naprons" (aprons) 17d. Given to five turnspits (giratoribus), 8d. 30 doz. of platters (discorum), and 12 doz. dishes (parapsidum) hired against the same time, 3s. 7d.—Sum, 7*l.* 17d.

Election, confirmation, and installation of the Prior.—Paid to the Chamberlain of the Lord Lestraunge, patron of this house, for the fee of the seal [to] the license of the same Lord obtained (impetrata) for proceeding with the election of a new Prior, the Priory having been bereaved of pastoral solace this year, 6s. 8d. Expenses of William Baldyngton, riding to Colham, for expediting the same, 16d. Given to Master William Symonde, the official in the election, and speaking the address (officiali in electione existenti et sermonen dicenti), and afterwards confirming the Prior, and installing the same, 40s. Given to Master Walter Patron inditing (dictanti) the decree upon the election, and defending the same in the confirmation, 26s. 8d. Given to Robert, the public notary, writing the said decree under his notarial sign, 21s. 8d. Expenses of Brother Robert Lawton riding to Lincoln with three horses, to the Vicar General, the Bishop being absent, to obtain the episcopal commission to confirm the elect as Prior by his deputy, 30s. 8d. Paid for the episcopal commission had, and directed to Master William Symond aforesaid, to confirm the same elect at Chestreton, 40s. For the Bishop's fee, 100s. To the Vicar-General for his fee, 13s. 4d. For the fees of the Registrar, and divers other clerks of the Bishop, 33s. 4d. Given to the Dean of the Deanery of Burcestre making proclamation, as usual, in the face of the church aforesaid, before the confirmation of the elect, 12d. To Master William Hawturvyle, clerk, in the confirmation of the Prior, objecting and disputing, as usual, against the decree, 13s. 4d. To two Bachelors being with the same, 6s. 8d. Paid to the Official in the stead and name of the Archdeacon, for the horse upon which the Prior rode in his confirmation, appertaining to the Archdeacon, as his fee, 66s. 8d., and he refused and rejected the horse because it was not of so much value. Given to the clerk and yeoman of Master William Symond aforesaid, both in the election and confirmation, 6s. To the servant of Master William Hawturvyle aforesaid in the confirmation, 8d. To the yeoman of John Gullofre being at the Prior's confirmation, 10s. To two minstrels at the same time, 20d. To two men bringing venison (carnes ferinas) against the same time, 2s. 4d. To the cooks of the kitchen taking part in preparing the food at that time, 3s. Bread bought against the same time, 2s. 1d. Ale bought at the same time, 21*½*d. Concerning victuals, it appears in the Journal of the Kitchen, in the Octave of Ascension this year.—Sum, 21*l.* 8s. 10*½*d.

The Prior's gifts.—Given to the son of Thomas Wycheford, when he [the Prior] lifted him

from the holy font (*cum de sacra fonte eum levaverit*), viz., in feast of St. Kalixtus this year, 13s. 4d. To two minstrels at the same time, 8d. To John Weston, bringing venison in the feast of St. Frideswide, 20d. To a servant of the Abbot of Eynsham bringing a swan as a gift to the Prior about the feast of St. Edmund the King, 8d. To the clerks with good wishes (*cum sospitate*) walking in the night of St. Nicholas, according to custom, 9d. Distributed to [his] own yeomen (*valectis*) and other servants in the feast of the Nativity, for their oblations, 4s. 4d. To certain players of an interlude in the same night, 4d. Two doz. of gloves of different sorts bought against the same time for the year's gifts, 11s. 4d. To the Royal purveyor of cattle, 12d. Given to the workmen of Matilda Jamys, 8d. To a barber of Thame, drawing and letting blood from the Prior's arm in the second week of Lent, 12d. To two harpers, 12d. To the clerk of the Lord Lestraunge, in Lent, bringing a "frontell" woven with gold, destined for the high altar by Lady Lestraunge, 20d. To the under-sheriff for the maintenance of friendship and strengthening of love more firmly, 20d. To certain men of Stratton, ploughing certain lands for sowing barley "*ex intimo amore*," in Lent, 20d. To a yeoman of the Bishop of Lincoln, staying overnight, 12d. To the farmer of Letecumbe, bringing his rent, at the same time, 4d. To Master John Raundys, healing (*medenti*) the Prior being sick, at a certain time, 6s. 8d. To a servant of the same, 12d. To a monk attending the Schools (*scolatizanti*) at Oxford, likewise healing (*medenti*) the Prior, and not successfully (*et minime prœvalenti*), at that time, 6s. 8d. To John Weston obtaining wine for himself at Gulloforys, 8d. For the distributions of the poor on the Supper day, according to custom, 3s. 9d. Given to the poor at times between the feast of St. Michael to Easter, 22d. To certain yeomen of the Lord Lestraunge, about Pentecost, proceeding to Colham to the said Lord, 3s. 4d. To some players in the feast of St. Edburga, 6d. To our threshers of peas, 2d. To a servant of Master John Gervayce bringing venison to the Prior, 6d. To a servant of Matilda Jamys for the like, 8d. To minstrels at a certain time, 12d. To the Royal purveyor of cattle to abate and quiet him (*ad eum mitigandum et pacandum*) 20d. To an esquire of the Lord Lestraunge, named Pery, 6s. 8d. To Thomas Heynys, yeoman of the same Lord, 20d. To Roger Wolmonger, farmer of Cumpston, bringing rent to the term of St. Peter *ad vincula*, 12d. To the Bailiff of the Honor, 12d. To Master Thomas Bekyngton at a certain time, that he should be friendly in causes and matters touching his house, 6s. 8d. For knives bought at the fair of Sterusbrugge. and given to his servants there being with him, 20d.—Sum, 4*l.* 11s. 10d.

Sum of all expenses.—214*l.* 21*½*d.

And so the receipts exceed the expenses—7s. 9*½*d.

1440.

Account of Brothers Robert Lawton and William Marton, Canons, Bursars of all goods touching the Priory of Burcestre, by them received and delivered, from the morrow of St. Michael the Archangel, in the eighteenth year of the reign of King Henry the Sixth after the Conquest, to the same feast in the year following.

Curtlyngton.—(As before).

Newenton.—(Richard Purcel, instead of John.)

Powhele.—(As before.)

Arrears.—None.

Rents of assize.—4*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* received from 12 tenements in Burcestre, in Buriende, and Kyngende. (The rest as before; except the horse-mill in the Priory, the water-mill opposite thereto, and Cumpton Basset, which are omitted.)—Sum, 154*l.* 4*s.* 2½*d.*

Issues of the manor and kitchen.—8*d.* received from one cow-hide, the mortuary of Katharine, daughter of J. Gyfford. 3*s.* 9*d.* received from 15 sheepskins, of the purchase of Reginald Coke, &c.—Sum, 7*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

Issues of the sheepfold.—Sum, 8*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*

Foreign receipts.—13*s.* 4*d.* received from John Hurre, because he did not repair nor hedge his close of Breche, and because of the trespass and damage of his beasts in the Lord's severalty and corn (Dadyngton)..... 22*d.* from the tithe of lambs in the collection of the same. 53*s.* 4*d.* received for the table of Master Nicholas Byllyngton.—Sum, 79*s.* 6*d.*

Demise of land with sale of herbage.—18*d.* received for all the tithe of hay behind the garden of Richard Dynby, with all the tithe and herbage of all the Prior's lands as they lie in Sladefurlong towards Stratton, demised to Richard Boteler.—Various meadows.—5*s.* received from 2 "hammes" in the meadow of Wendulbury, sold to John James. 3*d.* from John Chareman for the tithe of the old orchard. 2*d.* for the tithe of the demesne pond (stagni), &c.—Sum, 52*s.* 5*d.*

Sum total of the receipt.—172*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*

Surplus of the last account, for which they pray allowance—54*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*

Allowances and repayments (as before, with some omissions.)—Allowed for the tenement of Joan Web, appropriated for the term of her life, by virtue of her corrody, 10*s.* Allowed for the tenement of Richard Nayler, appropriated as above, 6*s.* 8*d.*—Sum, 46*s.* 6*d.*

Yearly pensions (as before.)—Sum, 14*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*

Tenths and procurations.—Paid for procuration of the Lord Pope, with the acquittance, 7*s.* 2*d.* Paid to the Lord Archdeacon, for his procuration touching the church of Burncester, 7*s.* 2¾*d.* Paid the same for synod[als], at the terms of Easter and St. Michael, 3*s.*—Sum, 17*s.* 10*d.*

Debts acquitted.—Paid to Wm. Berston, of Bannebery, for "fungia" (cordage?) bought of him, 20*s.* To William Brasier, for two brass pots with exchange of an old one, 3*s.* 4*d.* To John Gybbys, Wm. Sperman, and Ric. Benhull, for carriage of tiles to Slowter, 6*s.* To John Smyth, of Langeton, for making 2 axes, 12*d.* Paid to Joan Web, in part payment of a greater sum borrowed from her, 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*—Sum, 8*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*

Costs of ploughs and carts.—Sum, 105*s.* 10*d.*

Horse-shoeing.—Sum, 2*s.* 11*d.*

Small necessities.—Horse-collars, &c., bought of the collarer of Buk, 6*s.* 4*d.* Vessels for brewing, 3*s.* 3 boxes (pixict), for putting letters in, 2*d.* Binding of one portifory,¹ 20*d.* "Ratynbane," 1*d.*, &c.—Sum, 15*s.* 6*d.*

Small (things) for the household.—Sum, 44*s.* 6½*d.*

Costs of houses.—To Robert Sclatter, hired in gross by the year to title and amend the defects of houses within the Priory, 46*s.* 8*d.*, &c. To William Furbour tiling upon the treasure-

¹ Portifolium or portiforium was the Breviary, so called because it could be easily carried out of doors (foras).

house for 2 days, 6d. To the same to find tiles for tiling the bakehouse, 8s. To John Robyns, mending the defects of houses at Wrechwyk, late in the tenure of John Chestreton, for 3 days, 7½d. To the same making a chamber in the bakehouse, for six days, 6d., &c.—Sum 4l. 6s.

Expenses of the kitchen.—37l. 13s. 9½d.

Costs of the sheepfold.—Sum, 29s. 11d.

Purchase of grain.—Sum, 16s. 4d.

Purchase of stock.—45s. 10d.

Weeding, mowing, and haymaking.—Sum, 69s.

Costs of the harvest.—Sum 7l. 9s. 5d.

Threshing and winnowing.—Sum 75s. 2d.

Chamber of the Convent (clothing).—Sum, 13l. 11s. 1d.

Purchase of cloth for the freemen.—Sum, 11l. 3s. 5d.

Stipends of labourers.—To Morice Jones, digging a lake round a spot of ground in the country (lacum circa peciam ruralem) 9 perches, 2s. 5d. To John Whygth, making hedges next "le Schepehowes," 2s. 4d. To the same, hired to drive the cart to Ellesmer with the household (hospicio) of the Lord Lestraunge, for 14 days, 2s. 4d. To Richard Jones, mending the defects of the lavatory in the Cloister, 2s. 6d. To Richard Cowper, mending the vessels of the cellar, kitchen, and bakehouse, 6s. 8d., &c.—Sum, 26s. 10d.

Fees with stipends of free men.—Fee of William Marmyon, Steward of the Prior, to hold his courts, by the year, 26s. 8d. Fee of Robert Davers, by the year, 6s. 8d. Fee of John Felmersham, by the year, 6s. 8d. Fee of William Fytz Water, the Prior's attorney, this year, 6s. 8d. Stipend of William Howes, butler, this year, 10s.; of Richard Botler, 16s.; Robert Burgayne, 4s.; Edmund Coke, 16s. 8d., and no more, because he departed from service before the day of his covenant; William Smith, scullion of the kitchen, 6s. 8d.; Richard York, his fellow, 6s. 8d.; William Boteler, from St. John Bapt. to St. Michael, 3s. 6d.; John Baker, 20s.; Wm. Skynner, his fellow, 5s.; William Gulde, barber, 8s.; Thomas Lucas, gardener, 10s. John Palmer, groom of the Prior's stable, 10s.; 1 pair of shoes bought for the same, by agreement, 7d.; one pair of hose, bought for the same, 8d.; necessities bought for William Skinner, boy of the Prior's chamber, 2s. 7d.; for John Lawton, his fellow, 13d. Agnes Goldsmith, laundress, 18d.—Sum, 8l. 9s. 7d.

Stipends of servants.—Richard Gibbys, bailiff of the Upper Grange, 13s. 4d. Hayward, carters, ploughmen, oxherd, &c.—Sum, 6l. 16s. 10d.

Foreign expenses.—Expenses of Brother Robert Lawton to London and back, to appoint a procurator in the Convocation of the clergy celebrated there, 13s. 4d. Given to Master Thomas Bekynton, procurator in the said Convocation, 6s. 8d. (Grymmysbury). Expenses of Brother John Gybbys, at Oxford, with peas there to be sold, 4d. Expenses of certain persons at Oxford, Northampton, Wantyng, and Wallyngford. Expenses of the Prior at Oxford, for settling divers and arduous affairs of the house, 4s. 7d. Expenses of the Prior at Bannebury, with John Danvers, 2s. 3d.; and at Kenyngeswode, with the Lord Lestraunge, 27s. 8d. Expenses at Ardyngton and Beamond, for the rent.—Sum, 63s. 10d.

The Prior's gifts.—Given to Master Richard Cumbe, to obtain the "dimission" of the visitation of the Bishop of Salisbury for the church of Ardyngton, 5s. To John Bernard for having

friendship with counsel of the Duke of Lancaster, for certain lands and tenements in Curtlyngton, for which they claim suit of court, 3s. 4d. To the daughter of John Stokys, when he (the Prior) raised her from the sacred font, 6s. 8d. To John Bekyngham, steward of the Duchy of Lancaster, at Dadyngton, 20d. Distribution to the poor on the Supper day, 4s. 1d. To Thomas Ballescok, canon, attending the schools (scolatizanti) at Oxford, 3s. 4d. To 2 servants of John Gullafre, 18d. To the poor, at times, 5½d. To foresters bringing venison to the Prior, at times, 2s. 4d. Six pairs of gloves bought for the year's gifts, 2s. 4d. To a servant of Master John Gerveys, bringing oysters to the Prior and Convent, 4d. To players within the Nativity of Our Lord, 13d. To a servant of John Samwall, bringing a present to the Prior, 2d. To a servant of Clement Draper, bringing a present to the Prior, 2d. To John Peed, bringing his rent, 1d. To John Barton, "in his first covenant," 1d. To John Gyls, bringing the rent of Letecumbe, 2d. To a purveyor of partridges (captori perdicum), 8d. To a servant of the rent of Langeton, bringing one qr. of oats to the Prior as a present, 2d. To the labourers of Robert Bolley, 14d. To a servant of the Abbot of Oseney, 8d. To Wm. Cok, of the Prior's courtesy, 2d. To a yeoman of the Lord Cardinal, 8d. To reapers, 5d. To the clerk of John Bekyngham, 12d.—Sum, 37s. 10d.

Sum of all expenses.—196*l.* 17s. 3d.

And so the expenses exceed the receipts—23*l.* 18s. 7d.

1447.

Account of Brother Richard Hyntest, Canon and Bursar there, of all goods touching that Priory, by the same Richard, and Philip Gorton received, from Michas. 25 to Michas. 26, Hen. VI.

Arrears.—Rents at Dadyngton, &c. 40s. from John Merch for the farm of Arnecote. 26s. 8d. from the farm of Caversfelde, by [the hands] of Thomas Smyth. 12d. from rent in Fryngford. 26s. 8d. from the farm of Blakenhull. from the farm of the tithe of Ardyngton. 7s. 1d. from Thomas Fuller. 5s. from William Wodyngton of Wendulbury. 18d. received from Thomas Robyns there. &c. (mutilated.)—Sum, 27*l.* 18s.

Kyrtynghon, Newnton, Powhele (as before).

Rents of customers.—Burcestre and Kyngende; Wrechewyke; vacant land demised to men of Blakethorne; close at Crokewell; Takeley; Wendlebury; Dadyngton; Kyrthyngton.—Sum, 37*l.* 13s. 5d.; 2lb. pepper; 1 pair gloves.

Divers farms by indentures.—Close next Gravehull; close called le Brech; farm of Arnecote; farm of Bemound, demised to Henry Jony vic' (vicar?) of Little Myssenden, and others; Grymesbury; mill of Fryngford; Letcombe; Blakenhull; Wescote; Dadyngton; Clyfton; the mill within the Priory; lands in (Caver)felde; Mydl[yn]gton.—Sum, 89*l.* 16d.

Portion.—4*l.* from a portion in the church of Comton Basset, demised to Thomas Nynehed.

Sale of grain, with straw, 105s. 2d.

Issues of the kitchen, 26s. 3d.

Sale of stock and wool, 4*l.* 18d.

Foreign receipts.—51s. 10d. received from John Felmercheham for his table with (his) servant, this year. 4s. 8d. from underwood in Bernewode, and gravel (graueuell') sold to divers men this year. 8d. from the vicar there for timber sold. 10d. from John Felmersham for

carriage with cart for 1 day. 22d. from 1 qr. 5 bz. of lime sold. 2s. 6d. from the collector of tithe lambs in the parish of Burcestre, besides repayments. 8s. 4d. from the mortuary of the wife of William Robynet.—Sum, 70s. 8d.

Sale of herbage.—Various meadows &c.—Sum, 113s. 9d.

Perquisites of courts.—5s. 8d. from 2 courts holden at Burcester, as appears by one court roll. 5s. from Thomas Ywys for the price of one heriot of John Iwys. 3s. 4d. from one mortuary [of ?] Joan Castyll, so sold.—Sum, 14s.

Receipts of moneys.—20*l.* 9d. received from himself of the issues of the Rectory with the rent of Stratton, besides 57 lambs delivered to the Priory for stock.—Sum, 20*l.* 9d.

Sum total of the receipt, 199*l.* 11s. 10½d.; 2lb. pepper; and 1 pair gloves.

Repayments of rent, with diminutions paid to the King for "Gabulwall" at Cytlyngton, by the year, 2d. paid to the same of new rent in the same town 10d. Diminution of rents at Burcestre, Wrechewyke, Cyrtlyngton. Payments to rent-collectors, &c.—Sum, 64s. 7d.

Yearly pensions.—To the Abbot of Oseney, 60s. To the Abbot of Eynysham 52s. To the Prior of the House of St. Anne of the Carthusian Order next Coventry, for a yearly pension, formerly the Abbot Aulney's, in Curtlyngton, 40s. To the Abbot of Myssenden for a free farm in Arnecote, 6*l.* 13s. 4d.—Sum, 14*l.* 5s. 4d.

Tenths and procurations.—Paid to the Abbot of Tame, collector of a moiety of this tenth in the Archdeaconry of Oxford, 48s. 6d. To the Abbot of Notteley for the like in the Archdeaconry of Buckingham, 18s. 6d. Paid for procuration of the Lord Pope, 7s. 2d. Paid to the Archdeacon for the synod of Easter term 2s.; to the same for the synod of the term of St. Michael, 12d. To the Archdeacon of Oxford for procuration of the parish church there, 7s. 0¾d.—Sum, 4*l.* 4s. 2¾d.

Costs of ploughs and carts.—Sum. 42s. 9d.

Small necessities.—2 ells of cloth called "canwas" for making one "wallett" and one "bagge," for putting food and loaves in, 8d. 3lb. of candles called "Myssummur candell," bought of Richard Coll, 3d., &c.—Sum, 16s. 5d.

Small (things) of the household.—White bread bought for the Prior, and guests coming unprovided with their own, at times, 12d. 2½ gallons of wine bought in Cena Domini and at other times, 20d. 3 large cups and 3 earthen pots, 4½d.—Sum, 3s. 0½d.

Costs of houses.—4 oaks bought of John Felmysham for mending the mill of Curtlyngton by John Fuller, 6s. 8d. Divers persons hired for thatching the houses of the Upper Grange and sheepfold at Crokewell, and women for drawing straw, 3s. 4d. Richard Koc, hired to make hurdles of the same wood for 3½ days, 8½d.—Sum, 37s. 6d.

Purchase of grain.—5 qrs. 3 bz. of wheat bought at Stratton Grange, 43s. 3d., price of the quarter, 6s. 1 quarter of beans and peas bought of Brother Robert de Lawnton for sowing, 2s., &c.—Sum, 50s. 6d.

Purchase of stock, 45s. 4d.

Costs of the harvest.—Furlong next Gravenell, furlong next Wyte Crosse, Westonheyyys, the gate of the Upper Grange, furlongs called Crokewell and Nynacur, Stoteford furlong,

Buckenyll Bryge, furlong calld Cowbryge.—Richard Jacob of Lawnton, and others mentioned. Given to the reapers to move the sickle (*ad jactand: falcem*) 4d.—Sum 10*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*

Weeding, mowing, and haymaking.—Sum, 41*s.* 7*d.*

Threshing and winnowing.—Sum, 4*l.* 18*s.* 3½*d.*

Chamber of the Convent.—Sum 10*l.* 5*s.*

Purchase of cloth.—Sum, 8*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*

Stipends of labourers.—Sum, 43*s.* 3½*d.*

Fees with stipends of servants.—Sum, 22*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*

Foreign expenses.—Expenses of Philip Gorton, general receiver, to Ardyngton and Compton Basset, and to other [places] for rent, 3*s.* 6*d.* Of the Prior at Godystow, to speak with the Abbot of Oseney at Myddeley, 4*d.* Expenses of John York and John Wyte at Oxford, with a cart with peas there to be sold, 7*d.* Expenses of Brother Richard Hynbest at Tame, to speak with William Mermyn, 8*d.* Of John [York?] and John Wyte at Godystow, with a cart and with wool to be sold to the Abbot of Oseney at Waterton, 10*d.* Of John Lysby, John Wyte, and John Gybbys, at Myssenden, to obtain charcoal, 2*s.* 9*d.* Paid to John Gybbys, for his cart, hired to carry charcoal at the same time, 2*s.* 4*d.*—Sum, 10*s.* 11*d.*

Gifts.—Given to the clerks of St. Nicholas in his night, according to custom, for his cellar, kitchen, and bakehouse, 4*d.* To certain players in the feast of St. John the Evangelist, 4*d.* To a minstrel on the eve of the Epiphany, 4*d.* To men of Ammysdon, for assistance with their ploughs before Lent, 4*d.* To men of Merton, for the like about mid-Lent, 4*d.* To a servant [ot] Dalbi and Power, feodaries of Norfolk (servient' Dalbi and Power feeder' Norff'), for respiting homage for our lands and tenements in Caversfelde, 20*d.* To Dalbi, at another time, for the same matter there, 3*s.* 4*d.* To 2 "cryerys." Several sawyers employed. To William Coke, hired to make one cart, which is called a "dowggecowpe," and to hew timber for the said sawyers, 2*s.* 8*d.* To Geoffrey Stalworth, hired for 6 days to make the walls of the Upper Grange, 13*d.* 2 cartloads of stone for mending the lead in the bakehouse, 5*d.*—Sum, 20*s.* 5*d.*

Expenses of the kitchen.—Some of the victuals were bought at London against Lent.—Sum, 31*l.* 15*s.* 10½*d.*

Costs of the sheepfold.—Stipend of Thomas Gybbys, reeve of the Prior's sheep at Wrechewyk, preparing the necessities thereof, and overseeing them, that it might be well with them this year, besides his own tillage, 6*s.* 8*d.* Stipend of John Holwey, shepherd, 3 qrs., 15*s.* Given to the same to drink at times, 3*d.* 14 couple of men and women, hired to wash the said sheep, 4*s.* 8*d.* Victuals for the same sheep-washers, and for the shearers of the same, 7*d.* 9*lb.* of "pych" for marking the sheep, 13½*d.* 2½ quarts of tar, 2*s.* 4*d.* "Rosyn" bought to be mixed with the pitch, 4*d.* To John Russell, hired for 2½ days to bind up (plicand) wool, 12*d.* 2 cartloads of boughs (*virgarum*), bought at Stokewode for sheep hurdles, 18*d.* 24 hurdles bought for the "de comynplace de lond," 12*d.* To men of Stratton, helping with their ploughs before Easter, 12*d.* "Symnell"¹ and "crakenell"² bought for them at the same time, 6*d.* To Power, feodary of Norfolk, for respiting homage for our lands and tenements in Caversfelde, 3*s.* 4*d.* Distribution to the poor (*in cena Domini*) 4*s.* 5*d.* (?) To men of Merton for

¹ Bread of second quality. Simila in Latin means fine wheat flour.

² An inferior kind of bread.

mowing in "le sclade mede," 8d. To a certain yeoman called "Kyngys swanherd," 20d. To a servant of John Mersch, bringing the farm (*i.e.*, the rent) of Arnecote to the Prior, 4d.—Sum, 20s.

Old debts acquitted.—A long list of names.—Sum, 54*l.* 11s. 9½*d.*

Sum of all expenses (*misarum*), 180*l.* 15s. 4¼*d.* And he owes, 18*l.* 16s. 6¼*d.* Various allowances then follow, among others :—To the accountant for his labour this year, 26s. 8d. To the same for the labour of Philip Gorton making this account, 13s. 4d. For the Prior's debt, 8*l.* And now he owes, 7*l.* 12s. 7¼*d.*

Mem. that Thomas Cowper first entered on the farm of Stratton at the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula 26, Hen, VI., in which year the same Thomas had a moiety of the grain [and] hay of the demesne lands, and a moiety of the whole rent of the term of the Nativity of St. John Baptist of the same year, whereof Richard Hynbest is charged in his account of the whole farm of that year, viz., of 20*l.* and lambs for stock, and other things.

1452

Account of Brothers Robert Lawton, Subprior, and Richard Hynbest, Canons and Bursars there, of all goods touching the Priory aforesaid, by them received and delivered, from the morrow of St. Michael the Archangel, in the thirtieth year of the reign of King Henry the Sixth after the Conquest, to the same morrow on the year following.

Arrears.—24*l.* 9s. 2½*d.*

Kyrtlyngton—Newenton—Poweale.—Same as in the account of 1433.

Rents of assize.—76s. 4d. from 14 tenements in Burcestre as appears by the rental. 6s. 10d. from vacant land there demised to divers men to be sown. 59s. 8d. from customary rents in Wrecchewik. 35s. 5½*d.* from vacant land there demised to divers men of Blakthorn to be sown. 5s. for the close of Crokwell demised to Wm. Huntyngdon. 55s. from rents in Takley. 18s. from rents in Wendulbury. 18*l.* 12s. 3d. from rents in Dadyngton, &c. 80s. 9d. from rents in Kyrtlyngton.—Sum, 35*l.* 8s. 6½*d.*

Farms by indenture.—The new close next Gravenhull; close called le Breche; 4*l.* from the farm of the Manor of Arnecote, demised to Wm. Howchyn. 13*l.* 6s. 8d. from Beamond, demised to Edmund Needham. 13*l.* 6s. 8d. from the Manor of Grymmysbury, to John Parsons, 4*l.* from the Manor of Letecumbe Basset, to John atte Felde. 4*l.* 6s. 8d. from Westcote, to Hugh Barbour and Thomas Bocher. Pasture called Blakenhull; demesne lands and meadows in Dadyngton; manor of Clyfton, and the mills there. 53s. 4d. from Caveresfeld, demised to John Langeston. 40s. from Mudlyngton, to John Mayowe. 14*l.* from Ardyngton, to Don. John Smyth, vicar there. 4*l.* from Master Thomas Nynhed, rector of Cumpton Basset, for the yearly pension there, demised to him and his successors for ever by indenture. 2s. from a certain close in Fryngeford demised to John Mulward.—Sum, 84*l.* 18s. 8d.

Sale of grain.—Wheat, barley, peas, straw, &c. The water-mill within the Priory; John Cobbe miller there. The horse-mill. "18d. received from the Earl of Warwyk being within our Priory with 1500 horses for one day and night [going] to the Lord the King, viz., for 6 bushels of oats sold to him."—7*l.* 3s. 7d.

Issues of the kitchen, 69s.

Issues of the sheepcote, with sale of stock,—7*l.* 4s. 6d.

Foreign receipts.—“8s. 6d. received from bread and ale sold to the Earl of Warewick staying the night with the Prior, with 1500 horses, on the day of St. Matthias the Apostle this year.” &c.—Sum, 9*l.* 3s. 9½*d.*

Sale of herbage.—The Northmede, the Mulham, the Mede-acre about Langeford, 2 “hammes” in the field of Wendulbury, meadow of Gurwen, Kyngedham, tithe of the meadow of John Salmon, tithe in Gylbertesham, tithe in the Corf, tithe in the meadow of the Lord Lestraunge, the Churche-acre, tithe in Schortdoleme, tithe in Lusemore with the tithe in Byggenhull Broke. Names of lessees and vendees.—Sum, 73s. 6*d.*

Stratton.—15*l.* (os.) 7½*d.* received from the issues of the Grange of Stratton Audele, as appears in the account thereof made.

Sum total of the receipt.—189*l.* 11s. 5*d.*

Allowances and repayments.—Repaid to John Stokys, for one piece of land lying without the gate, 10s. To the same for yearly rent of a tenement in the lane. Distribution amongst the poor parishioners at Little Messenden, 3s. 4*d.* Paid to the King for one “gabull wall” in Curtlyngton, by the year; and for new rent of two tenements there, 10*d.* To the Lord Lestraunge, for yearly rent in Mudlyngton, 12*d.* 2lbs. pepper for the same rent, by the year, 20*d.* For amercements in the Court of the same, unjustly, 6*d.* Paid for Knythton Spence, 15*d.* To the Sheriff for the “Schire White,” by the year, 4s. To Thomas Gybbys, rent-collector of the vacant land in fields of Blackthorn, 6s. 8*d.* To Thomas Newman, rent collector in Kyrtlington, 4s.—Sum, 24s. 9*d.*

Yearly pensions.—To the Abbot of Oseney, “for the yearly pension of the church of Burcestre,” 60s. To the Abbot of Eynesham “for yearly rent with pension in Stratton Audele,” 52s. To the Prior of St. Anne Cartusiensis next Coventry, “for a certain pension in the fields of Byggenhull, with a tithe of the mill in Kyrtlyngton,” 40s. To the Abbot of Messenden, for fee-farm in Arnecote, 6*l.* 13s. 4*d.*—Sum, 13*l.* 5s. 4*d.*

Loss of rents.—Failure of the rent of one tenement in the tenure of Richard Nayler, above charged at 6s. 8*d.*, this year nothing, because the said Richard holds the said tenement for term of his life by virtue of the corrody sold to him, as appears by the indenture thereof made. Failure of the rent of the Manor of Arnecote, above charged at 4*l.*, nothing this year, because Wm. Howchyns holds and has the said Manor in mortgate until the sum of 20*l.* be paid to him, with which sum the said William accomodated Richard Hynbest, who was in the office of Bursar. Mills of Clyfton burnt, 6*l.*—Sum, 10*l.* 6s. 8*d.*

Tenths and procurations.—Paid to the collector of the Lord Pope, for his procuration, 7s. To the Lord Archdeacon, for his procuration in the church of Burncestre, 7s. 7½*d.* To the same, for synod at Easter and Michaelmas, 3s.—Sum, 17s. 7¾*d.*

Cost of ploughs.—4*l.* 5s. 3½*d.*

Small necessities.—One lock (cera) bought for the porter's door, 3*d.* 3 quires (quaternis) of paper bought at the fair of St. Frideswitha, with expenses of the fetcher, 9*d.* &c.—Sum, 24s. 1*d.*

Small things of the household.—Sum, 20s. 5½*d.*

Costs of houses.—The sheep house of Wrecchewyk; the dove-house tiled; Clyfton.—Sum, 16s. 9*d.*

Costs of the new barn.—Carpenter's and mason's work. Digging stone for the walls; digging mortar; purchase of tiles at Cherlton; hewing timber for the "scaffold," &c.—Sum, 105s. 2½d.

Expenses of the kitchen.—41*l.* 13s. 9d.

Purchase of grain.—1 qr. of wheat bought at Stratton, 6s. 1 bushel of hemp-seed bought in the market, 7d.—Sum, 6s. 7d.

Mowing and haymaking.—7s.

Costs of the harvest.—104s. 11½d.

Purchase of stock.—1 horse for drawing in the mill, 6s. 8d. 1 small horse bought of John Betts, 4s. 6d.—Sum, 11s. 2d.

Costs of the sheepfold.—Ointment? (pinguedo) bought to heal the sheep, 4d. Expenses of the reeve at the tavern (ad tabernam), 1d. &c.—Sum, 15s. 1½d.

Threshing and winnowing.—76s. 4d.

Stipends of labourers.—To John Glazier, mending the lead of a certain window in the refectory, 8d. Repair of walls in the Priory. Cleansing of the mill-pond. Sawing planks for the mill. Cleansing of the pond within the cemetery, &c.—Sum, 4*l.* 7s. 7d.

Chamber of the Convent (clothing).—11*l.* 13s. 4d.

Purchase of general cloth.—For "Kendal"¹ bought and given to 5 yeoman of the Prior against the celebration of the Chapter General, 14s. 11d.

Fees with stipends.—William Marmyon, steward of the Prior, 40s. &c. John Gylys, receiver general, 26s. 8d. Edward Byfeld, yeoman of the Prior's chamber, 20s. Nicholas, boy of the same, 10s. William Cok, butler and barber, 26s. 4d. Joan Heggess, brewer and laundress, 10s. John Bryce, gardener, 10s. &c.—Sum, 15*l.* 8s. 8d.

Stipends of servants.—12*l.* 5s. 6d.

Foreign expenses.—Expenses of certain persons to various places. Of the Lord Archdeacon visiting the church of Burcester, 22d. Of Brother Robert Lawton, at Ardyngton and at Mudlyngton, to survey the rectory and farm of the same, 2s. 4d. Of Brother Richard Hynbest at Ardyngton, to speak with Richard Husband about the repair of the rectory there, 13d. Of the Prior at Oxford with the Abbot of Oseney. Of the same at the chapter general celebrated at London, 26s. 8d. Of the same at Borstal, 4d. &c.—Sum, 78s. 9½d.

The Prior's gifts.—Given to George Newers, for delivery of a certain charter of feoffment made to the same and others of two cottages in the town of Kyrtyllyngton, late in the tenure of John Heggess there, 6s. 8d. To servants of the Dean of Lincoln, visiting our Priory in the Octave of the feast of Corpus Christi, 6s. 8d. To a canon of Hamound, taking the degree of Doctor of Divinity, 6s. 8d. To Master Thomas Sawndres, for having his good counsel, 3s. 4d. To Thomas Waldyf, clerk of the peace in the county of Oxford, 6s. 8d. To Master Robert Darcy, for having [his] friendship, 20s. Distribution to the poor on the Supper day, 4s. 2d. To John William, of the Prior's courtesy, 8d. To John Mersch, bringing venison to the Prior, 4d. To the clerks in the night of St. Nicholas, 6d. To the servants at plough, 16d. To

¹ A kind of forester's cloth, so called from Kendal in Westmoreland, which was famous for its manufacture.

players in the Nativity of Our Lord, 5d. To stipendiaries at times, 11d. To minstrels, 8d. Given for the building of the New College of Canons in Oxford,¹ 6s. 8d.—Sum, 64s. 8d.

Sum of all expenses, 144*l.* 8s. 1½*d.* And they owe 45*l.* 3s. 3½*d.* Whereof, allowed for repair of the rectory of Ardyngton, as by bill, 26s. 8d.; for repair of a dovecote in the Manor of Caversfeld; for amercements in the King's Exchequer paid to Robert Berbury, clerk of the green wax, 6s. 8d.; for the labour of Philip Gorton, auditor of this account, 26s. 8d., viz., for 2 years; for three gowns (togis) for William Marmyon, John Stokys, and the Vicar of Ardyngton, 20s.; for the winnowing of all grain threshed within the Priory, 10s.; for repair of a tenement in the tenure of John Carter in Kyrtyngton, 15s. 8d. &c. And they owe 31*l.* 14s. 5½*d.*

1456.

Account of the Lord Edmund Wicombe, Prior there, of all goods by him received and delivered, from the Eve of St. Michael the Archangel, in the 34th year of the reign of King Henry the Sixth after the Conquest, until the same eve in the year following.

The early part of this account is the same as in the previous ones, and is in some places much mutilated. The sum totals in many entries are omitted. The only paragraphs of new interest are, one relating to an increase of rent in Stratton and other places, and the following

Small things of the household.—Repair of one red bed with lilies, and with one red "banker" in the Hall, 2s. 6d. 3 scythes bought at Yslepe, 8s. Various articles bought in the market place and at Steresbrugge.—Sum, —.

Small necessities.—Sum, —.

Costs of houses.—To Robert Mason, hired to make two ovens in the bakehouse, 13s. 4d. 9 boards, 18d. 10 oak boards, 20d. To Matthew Carpenter, making a house for putting the wool in, 8 days, 2s. 8d. To the same for making a small house (domucul'] to put the boars in, by the job (ad taxam), 3s. 8d. To William Sawyer, hired with his brother to saw boards, 5s. 6d. To Robert Smyth, of Stratton, for making the "beme" of iron," 2s. To the plumber making the "wytes," 8d. For 4 keys with 4 locks made and renewed at Bannebury, 8d. 2 locks with keys bought there for the gate next the mill, 6d. To a tiler tiling over the chamber of William Harlyngrugge, 5s. Repair of houses at Crockwell, 17d.; of the house of Thomas Carter, at Kyrtyngton, 9d.; of the house of John Hogshawe, 6s. 2d.; of the house of John Durbarre, of Kyrtyngton, 12s. 6d. (Grymmysbury). Ric. Judkyns, for making a dovecote at Caversfeld, 13s. 10d. To John Mayho for repair of the Manor of Mudlyngton, 2s.; for repair of a barn in the said Manor, 14s. 8d. Repair of the tenement of Thomas Gybbys, junior, at Wrecchewyk, 10s. 3d., &c.—Sum, —.

Expenses of the kitchen.—Fish, flesh, rabbits, &c. Eels bought of the Miller of Fringford, 12d. For the exchange of vessels of electrum weighing 63lb., taking for the lb. 1½*d.*, plus ¼*d.* in the whole, 6s. 8d. Mending the great pot in the kitchen, 12d. Mending the lead-work about the "ketell" in the kitchen, 2s. 7d. Moiety of a boar bought of William Deye, 4s. 3lb. pepper bought of the Prior, 3s. 6d. &c.—Sum, —.

Purchase of cloth for liveries.—Woollen cloth for Richard York, William Barbour, and Philip Garton, 12s. To Richard Rumbold, weaver, for the weaving of a cloth (unius pami) for the

¹ The College of St. Mary of Augustinian Canons founded in 1435. The gateway still remains in New Inn Hall Street. Erasmus lodged there.

servants, 16d. To William Norys, fuller, of Kyrtyngton, "for the same cloth," 16d. To the dyer of Kirtlington, "for the same cloth," 3s. 8d. To Margaret Sclatter for the working of 42lbs. of wool, 5s. 20 yards of blanket bought of Joan Sclatter, 19s. 1 coat (toga) for William Harlyngrugge, 5s. 6d.; another for John Baker, 2s. 3½d. Allowed to Thomas Grey for his coat, 6s. 8d. Black cloth for the Prior's cell, 12d.—Sum, —.

Chamber of the Convent.—In the Prior's chamber, by the year, 53s. 4d. Pension of Brother John Wantyng, late Prior, 66s. 8d. For the chamber of Brother Robert Lawton, Subprior, by the year, 26s. 8d. For the chamber of Brother Richard Hynbest, 26s. 8d. For the Chamber of Brother Bath, 26s. 8d. For the chamber of Brother John Smyth, 26s. 8d. For the chamber of Brother John Aleys, 26s. 8d. For the chamber of Richard Rumsey, 26s. 8d. For the chamber of Brother Humphrey Schirley, 13s. 4d. For the chamber of Brother Robert Doget, 13s. 4d. For the chamber of Brother John Tukker, 13s. 4d. For spices and medicines bought for the Prior, being sick, this year, 2s. 7d.—Sum, —.

Purchase of grain.—Sum, —.

Cost of the sheepfold.—To Thomas Sclatter, keeper of the sheep of the Prior and Convent, 3 qrs., 15s. To Thomas Gybbys, for overlooking the Prior's sheep at Wrecchewyk, in the time of Brother William Bath, 5s.; in the time of Brother John Smyth, 8s. &c.—Sum, —

Purchase of stock.—2 horses, &c. Medicines for horses. 45 oxen bought at divers prices and in divers places, as appears shown by the Prior's great book, particularly steers, cows, sheep.—Sum, —.

[Nothing further.]

(Year uncertain, but subsequent to the last.)

[Portion of a Bursar's Account, temp. Hen. VI. ? on paper; title and beginning lost.]

[Yearly pensions.] As before. Paid to the vicar of Ardyngton for the augmentation of his benefice, 71s.

Failure of rents.—Tenement in Burcestre in tenure of Richard Nayler, alias Feyreford; no rent by reason of his corrody, as before. Decay of a tenement in the lane; nothing this year because not built. Tenements of John Baker and John Lystby. [Sums total not given in this and following entries.]

Debts acquitted.—To Thomas Tytteshale for a debt of the Lord John Wantyng, late Prior, deceased, for one cup and one pair of "precum" (probably books of prayers) being in the hands of the said Thomas. [To] Westeley for mending the mill, 2s. To Henry Fleccher, for an old debt of Edmund the late Prior. To John Hurre, for agisment. To William Marmyon for his fee, being in arrear in the time of Edward Wiscombe, 4/. To Walter Munday for 6 yards of woollen cloth. To John Gylys, for an old debt of the Lord John Wantyng, Prior, 12s.

Costs of ploughs, —.

Small things of the household.—Bread bought for the Prior and his guests, at times, 7s. 10d. 2½ gallons of sweet wine bought, 3s. 4d. 19 gallons of red wine bought, 12s. 8d. 1 gallon of red wine bought for the parishioners' feast, 8d. 1 gallon of white wine bought, 8d. 74 gallons of ale bought, 8s. 6d., price of the gallon, 2d. (sic.) 93 gallons of ale bought, 8s. 3d., price of the gallon, 1½d. (sic.) Confections bought for the Prior and Convent in Cena Domini, 8d. ½lb. cinnamon, 12d.

Small necessities.—30 yards of hair-cloth (cilicii) bought for a mattress (thoralle), 12s. 6d. Hair thread (filo cilicii) for sewing the same and mending the same, 4d. 1 saddle with bridle, for the Prior, 9s. 6d. Two other saddles with bridles for the yeomen, 14s. Mending of saddles at London, 18d. Making 3 pairs of sheets, 7d. Nails, 15d. "Takett nayle," 6d. 1 small axe, 3d. Hair girdles (zonis cilicii), 12d. 1 lock with 3 keys, "pro domo conti," 12d. For making the seal of the new Prior, this year, 4s. For a ring with seal, 12d.

Costs of houses.—To John Abre, tiling upon the sacrist[y] house, 8 days, 2s. 8d. To Rob. Tydbury, thatching on the barn, 6 days, 15d. Tiles, 4s.; carriage of same, 2d. To Ric. Westeley, hired to make anew the sacrist[y] house, and to repair a house in the bakehouse called the "Symurhows," 60s. To the same, mending the oven (thorale) in the bakehouse, 3 days, 12d. To John, tiler of the houses, 7 days, 2s. 1d. To the same, tiling upon the Chapter-house, 4 days, 16d..... mending defects about the Cloister, 5 days, 20d. To the same, mending defects upon the house of the infirm, 8½ days, 3s. 7d. To the same..... upon the house of the horse-mill, 1 day, 4d..... (Takley). To Thomas Shereman, mending the wheel of the horse-mill, 5 days, 20d. "Tyle" for the oven in the kitchen, with expenses of the fetcher, 14d. For the making of the same oven, 4d. 1000 of "bryke" for making the chimney in the Prior's chamber, 5s. To Ric. Mason, making and mending the defects of a window in the Prior's chamber, 3 days, 12d. To William Blakett, mending the horse-mill, 20d. For repair of the chancel of Little Messenden, as appears by the bill thereof made, 17s..... (Grymmysbury).

Expenses of the kitchen.—20 sheep, bought of Master Thomas John, 40s. 23 tithe lambs bought of Don. John Barbour, chaplain of Pidyngton, 16s. 6d. Vinegar bought at times for the Prior, being sick, and for other necessities, 3s. 4d. &c. Thomas Gybbys, Brother Ric. Hynbest, Agnes Mundy, Brother John Gibbys, John Hurre, Roger Ford, John Dyconson, fishmonger, of London, and Wm. Carter, mentioned. All kinds of expenses of the kitchen (et in omnimodis expensis Jurnal' coquine), by weeks.—22*l.* 15s. 7d.

Purchase of livery cloth.—128½ yards of russet, bought of Wm. Capron, of Bannebury, 76s. 3d. 23½ yards of blood colour (blodii coloris), bought of the same, for the gentlemen, 62s. 7d.; price of the yard 2s. 8d. 3 doz. and 8 yards of the same colour, "remissi," bought for the yeomen, 4*l.* 8s.; price of the yard, 2s. 6 yards of "Kendall," bought for John Merchs, 3s.

Chamber of the Convent.—Of the clothing of the Lord Edmund Wycombe, late Prior, deceased, nothing in money, because he died on the eve of St. Thomas. Paid to the Lord Robert, the new Prior, by the year, 26s. 4d. Paid to Brother Ric. Hymbest, Subprior, for his chamber,¹ 26s. 8d. To Brothers John Gybbys, John Aleys, Robert Dogett and John Tucker, for their respective chambers, 26s. 8d. each. To Brother John Andever, novice, for his chamber, 13s. 4d. To John Wellyngton, John Burcestre, and Thomas Hanglton, for their respective chambers, 13s. 4d. each. To John Sybford, for his chamber, 13s. For all manner of expenses with medicines bought for the Lord Edmund Wicombe, Prior, deceased, 42s. Medicines for Dom. Robert Lawton, being sick, 3s.; for Brother Ric. Hynbest, Subprior, being sick, 2s. Expenses of Brothers Thomas Hanglton and John Sybford to Bugden to receive the orders of sub-deacon, before the feast of St. Michael, 11s. 4d. Expenses of the same Thomas and Brother John Burc[estre] to Liddyngton to receive the orders of deacon, on the eve (?) of Trinity, 8s. 4d. Expenses of John Sybford to Oxford, on the same day, to receive the order of deacon, 20d.

¹ This expression included everything necessary for the clothes, bedding, and personal cleanliness of the monks.

Stipends of labourers.—To Thomas Smyth, of Blakthorn, mending the defects of a chest in the Prior's chamber, 4d. To Thomas Schereman, making a small "penne" to put capons in for fattening, 6d. Nails for the same, 2d. 2 masons mending the defects of the walls in the Hall, 1 day, 6d. To John Willys, hired to make "welys" (*i.e.*, willows or osiers) for taking fish, 4 days, 12d. To Ric. Mason, mending defects about the lead, 1 day, 4d.; to his servant, 2d. To Roger Plummer, of Bannebury, mending the defects of the great lead in the bakehouse, 8d. To John Dyamond, mending the said lead, at times, 8d. To Margery Lawton, making 3 pairs of sheets, 7d. 1 gridiron, 1d. Linen cloth for the said lead, 1d. To Thos. Sperman, hewing wood for the Prior's chimney, 2 days, 4d. To the same, hired in the Prior's garden, 1 day, 2d. To John Doget, hired for the like, one day, 2d. Carrying of two carts (bigat) at Bernewode, 12d. John Willys, hired to cut nettles in the "Trymnell," 2d. To the same, hired to cleanse the fish-pond, one day, 2d. 2 women drawing straw, 4 days, 6d. To John Cok, hired for divers rural works, 10 days, 16d.

Purchase of grain.—1 qr. of malt, bought of William Newman, of Kyrtlyngton, 6s. 8d. &c.

Purchase of stock.—1 white horse for the Prior's saddle (cella), 40s. 1 horse bought for the mill of Philippa Westeley, 7s.—Haymaking expenses.

Costs of harvest.—Coppeslowfeld and Weston-Hayes mentioned.

Threshing and winnowing.

Fees with stipends of freemen.—Fee of Wm. Marmyon, steward, 20s. Wm. Harlynrugge, 26s. 8d. Thomas Waldiffe, attorney, 6s. 8d. Stipend of William Chalner, half-year, 10s. Henry Warner, the Prior's yeoman, 16s. John Schene, butler, 20s. Robert, the barber, 18s. 4d. John Lawton, the Prior's chamberlain, 8s. Robert, the cook, half-year, 10s. Richard York, cook for the other half-year, 10s. The scullion of the kitchen, 10s. Wm. Mundy, baker, 20s. Agnes Mundy, malt-drier, 10s. Alice Bruet, laundress, 6s. 8d. Roger Yngerham, tailor, 6s. 8d. 11lb. of thread bought for the same, by agreement, 11d. Nicholas Franke, keeper of the Prior's horses, 10s. Joan Heggess, indoor servant ("introlatricis") 2s.

Stipends of servants.—John Bowell, bailiff, 26s. 8d. John Symth, carter, 3 qrs., 15s. Thomas Dadyngton, 16s. John Caspoll, 10s. Thomas Heggess, 13s. 4d.

Foreign expenses.—Expenses of certain persons at Wicombe, Bullewyke, Bannebury, Oxford, Dadyngton, London, Brakley, and Cokthrope. Of Henry Warner, at Oxford, with Master Wynterburne. Of John Caspoll, at Wicombe, on the business of the Prior, being sick, 3d. Of the Prior, at Oxford, at times this year, 18s. 6d. Of the Steward, holding court[s] at Kyrtlyngton, 14d. Of Nicholas Franke, at Colham, for a horse lent to the Lord Lestraunge, at two times, 16d. Of John Gibbys, at the forest, for taking venison, 14d. Of John Willys, at Meriton, for sour apples (pomis acerbis), 1d.

Costs of the sheepcote.—3s. 4d.

The Prior's gifts.—To 2 takers of oats of the Lord the King, 3s. 4d. To a priest, robbed by thieves, 8d. To a physician, healing the leg of the Prior deceased, 20d. To 2 stipendaries, 4d. To Drugo Stretely, to have his good friendship, 12d. To a servant of John Mersch, bringing venison to the Prior, 2d. Towards rebuilding the bridge of Goseford, 1d. To John Sclatter, a leper (leproso), 4d. To John Giles, on the day of the burial of the Lord Edmund Wicombe, Prior, deceased, 6d. To the poor, on the same day, 4d. To Thomas, on the day of his marriage,

3s. 4d. To Thomas Freman, on the first day of his covenant, 1d. To Thomas Harris, bringing a cow, the heriot of a tenement of Hempton, 2d. To Nichasius Franke, keeping the Prior's horses, 1d. To the poor, at times, 2s. To the clerks on the night of St. Nicholas, 6d. To the ploughmen, at times, 6d. To Master John Bugge, for his good friendship for..... a subsidy granted to the Lord the Pope, 3s. 4d. To the Bailiff of the Honor of Wallyngford, 12d. To David John, yeoman of the Lord Lestraunge, 12d. To the son of William Blaket, when he [the Prior] raised him from the holy font, 12d. To prisoners in the Marshalsea (Marescallo) of the Lord the King, 4d. To a scholar playing on organs (*scolari ludenti ad organos*), 8d. To a servant of John Langeston, bringing venison to the Prior, 4d. To the labourers of John Stokys, Esq., 4d. To a messenger of the Lord Archbishop, 12d. To a servant of John Stokys, bringing venison to the Prior, 3d. To the servant (*ursario*, keeper of bears) of the Earl of Warwick, 4d. The poor's distribution on the Supper day, 3s. 8d. To a servant of Robert Grevell, 4d. To Benedict Taylour, bringing ale to the Prior, 4d. To John Schene, bringing a bird called "Borstard," 2d. To a gentlewoman, begging, 4d. To a forester, bringing venison to the Prior, 4d.

Expenses in the collection of the tenth.—Paid to the Remembrancer, for his fee, 10s. To John Swillyngton, the Prior's attorney in the King's Exchequer, 10s. To his clerk, 16d. Expenses of William Chalner and Henry Warner, round about (*circumquaque*) in the country for collecting tenths, as appears by the bill shown and examined on this account, 9s. 6d. Of the same to London and back, three times, with tenths there to be paid, 33s. 8d. Of the Prior to London for the same matter, for 7 days, 68s. 2d. Paid to the King's Exchequer, of further receipts, 4*l.* 10s.

Expenses in the election, confirmation, and installation of the new Prior.—Given to Master John Wynturburne to have his good counsel in the said election, 6s. 8d. Fee of the Lord Lestraunge for having license to proceed with the election of ancient custom, 8s. 4d. Expenses of William Huntynghdon to the Castle of Hawerdon with the said Lestraunge for the said license, 11s. 4d. Of Master John Wynturburne and William Chalner to Bugden with the Bishop of Lincoln to treat with him, for having a commission to confirm the elected, 12s. 11d. Paid for the said commission, 100s. Given to Master John Botiler, Doctor in Decrees, and Chancellor of the Bishop of Lincoln, confirming the elected, 53s. 4d. Given to Master John Wynturburne, notary public, clerk in the election, 46s. 8d. To the Lord Archdeacon, for the Prior's horse, by custom, 20s. To the Official of the same, for his fee, 14s. 6d. To the Registrar of the same, 3s. 4d. To two servants of Master John Botiler, witnesses in the election, 20d. To Master John Wynturburne, installing the Prior, 6s. 8d. To the clerk of the same, 12d. To the apparitor for his fee, 2s. To Master John Bugge, for the letter of confirmation, 10s. To a poor scholar, 4d.

[Sum total not stated.]

1481.

The Account of Richard Hyndebest, the lord Prior of St. Edburg's the Virgin of Burcestre, and Brother Robert Dogget, Bursar, for the year 1481, 20, 21 Edward IV. (given in its original Latin form in Appendix IV. of Mr. Dunkin's History) is the last known to be extant.

SACRISTAN'S ACCOUNTS.

The Sacrist, or Sacristan, had the charge of all the Sacra, or things devoted to divine service. For this purpose he resided in a building attached to the Convent Church, called the "Sacristy House." He had two assistants, one being called "The Sacristan's Groom." A portion of the Priory property was assigned, in addition to the offerings made in the Church, to meet the expenses of his office. Some accounts, by the later holders of the office have been preserved.

Account of Brother Ralph de Meriton, of the Sacristy of Burencester, from the feast of Saint Michael, A.D. 1315 to A.D. 1316, and from 9 to 10 Edw. II.

Arrears, 4*l.* 4*s.* 6¼*d.*

Rents from Robert the Clerk of Burencestre.—From Stepelaston, from Arnicot, from John Purs, from Kaversfelde, from the relict of Philip "Mercernar," and from Stodlege¹ in "Wyltechire."—Sum, 39*s.* 7½*d.*

Sums received at the Great Altar; also he renders account of 4*d.*, on All Saints' Day; also of 5*d.* on the day of the Nativity of Our Lord; also of 2*s.* 4*d.* on the day of the Purification of the Blessed Mary; also of 2*s.* 3¾*d.* on Easter Day at all the masses; also of 13½*d.* at the Cross on the day of Preparation (die Parasseu) and Easter Day; also of 5¾*d.* on the day of Pentecost; also of 3*d.* on the day of Edburga; also of 19¾*d.* of the feast of the Relics; also of 2*s.* of the Anniversary of Master Walter de Foderingeye.—Sum, 10*s.* 10½*d.*

Small oblations to the relics on various days, 27*s.* 4½*d.*

Tricennals² and bequests.—6*d.* for for the soul of Agnes Leche, of Langeton; also 3*s.* for the soul of Walter de Baker; also 7*d.* for one bushel of drage (or buckwheat) for the soul of John de Bigehulle; also 5*d.* for the soul of Matilda de Mixbury; also 12*d.* for the souls of Hugh and Alice de Grendon; also 2*s.* for the souls of Alamyia and Sibilla Ferur, from Richard de Westcote; also 6*d.* for the soul of Agnes de Langeton.—Sum, 8*s.*

9*s.* 8*d.* from stone sold at Ambersdon to Ralph and John Fynel of the residue of the stone of the past year. 10*s.* from the pledging? (eanantag) of two colts bought. 5*s.* from wool sold. 7*s.* 4*d.* from small oblations in the vestry.—Sum, 42*s.*

Of mortuaries.—Also of 3*s.* 7*d.* of the mortuary of Walter the Baker; also of 18*d.* of 1 brass pot; also of 4*d.* of the tunic (tuica) of William Lef; also of 4*d.* of Stodart; also of 23*d.* of the mortuary of Nicholas Bole; also of 2*s.* 4*d.* of the chest (cista) of the relict (?) of Sebern de Wigehulle; also of 12*d.* of the chest of Alice the Winnower (ventilat); also 2*s.* 10*d.* of 1 brass pot; also of 3*s.* 6*d.* of one supertunic of Stratton; also of 16*d.* of one red tunic of the same (place), and of 6*d.* of another tunic of the same, and of 4*d.* of another tunic of the same, and one tunic given for God; also of 3*s.* of the supertunic of the Bedell's wife; also of 14*d.* of the tunic of the Bedell; also 22*d.* of the supertunic of the Bedell Robert, and of 14*d.* for the tunic of his wife; also of 12*d.* for the mortuary of William ate Brech, and of 4*d.* of Robert Orsinan, and of 6*d.* of 2 mortuaries, and of 10*d.* of 3 mortuaries; also of 16*d.* of 1 mortuary, and of 7*d.* of 1 mortuary.—Sum, 31*s.* 9*d.*

30*s.* from the goods of Walter, the baker.

¹ Appropriated to the light before the altar of St. John the Baptist.

² Masses for 30 days.

Moneys received from wheat sold (including grain of Wendlebury.—Sum, 4*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*

From horses (caball) sold, 2*9s.*

Moneys received from tallow, wine and oil, and small receipts.

Stipends of the masons and others, and other expenses "about the new work," 11*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*

Horses (caball) bought, 35*s.*

Total receipts, 19*l.* 12*s.* 3½*d.*

Total expenses, 15*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* And so the receipts exceed the expenses in 78*s.* 1½*d.*

1320.

Account of Brother Ralph de Meriton, of the Sacristy of Burnecestre' Michas 13 to Michas 14, Edw. II.

Of oblations at the great Altar.—Also he renders account of 3*d.* on All Saints' Day; also of 2*s.* 1*d.* on the day of the Nativity of Our Lord, and of 1*d.* on St. Stephen's Day; also of 3*d.* on the day of the Epiphany; also of 15*d.* on the day of Purification; also of 5¼*d.* at the Cross on the day of Preparation; also of 2*s.* 6*d.* on Easter Day, at the great Altar, and at the mass of the Blessed Mary, and at the Cross; also of 13*d.* on the day of the Dedication; also of 16½*d.* at the feast of Relics.—Sum, 9*s.* 3½*d.*

Of small oblations to the Relics.—Also of 3½*d.* on Sunday next after the feast of St. Michael; also of 6¾*d.* on All Saints' Day; also of 5½*d.*; also of 4*d.* on Sunday next after the St. Andrew the Apostle; also of 2¾*d.* on Sunday next after the feast of St. Lucy; also of 5¾*d.* on the day of Circumcision; also of 6¼*d.* on the day of Fabian and Sebastian; also of 7*d.* on the day of the Purification; also of 5½*d.* on the first Sunday of Lent; also of 5*d.* on Sunday in the Passion; also of 9½*d.* on Ascension Day; also of 4*s.* 1*d.* of the feast of the Invention of Holy Cross; also of 5½*d.* on Sunday next after the feast of St. Petronilla the Virgin; also of 8*s.* 8*d.* of the feast of St. Edburga; also of 6*s.* 5½*d.* of Nicholas Damery at the shrine (ad feretrum); also of 4½*d.* on Sunday next before the feast of St. Thomas; also of 8*d.* on Magdalen Day; also of 10*d.* on the day of Assumption; also of 7*d.* on Sunday next before the feast of the Decollation of St. John Baptist; also of 2*s.* 6*d.* [on the day] of the Exaltation of Holy Cross.—Sum, 30*s.* 5½*d.*

Of mortuaries and trentals.—Also of 2*s.* 8*d.* of the mortuary of a man of Langeton, dying in the vill of Burencestre at the house of John Frere; also of 7*d.* for the mortuary of Oliva or Clemencia; also of 3*s.* 2*d.* of one brass pot.—Sum, 6*s.* 5*d.*

Of gifts for souls and masses to be celebrated.—Also of 13*s.* 4*d.* for the soul of Master Richard de Scarning, formerly Rector of Godindon; also of 12*d.* of John de Bedeford for the soul of Agnes de Bugenhull; also of 4*s.* for the soul of William Maldman.—Sum, 18*s.* 4*d.*

Among the expenses.—Also for the work of the boat of the great bell, broken, 2*s.*; for 27ft. and 4 stone of lead, 60*s.* 6*d.*; also for 24ft., 54*s.*; white glass, 28*s.*; white and coloured glass, 21*s.* 8*d.*; coloured glass, 25*s.* 3*d.*; various other expenses for masons, carpenters, plumbers, &c.; 32 ells of linen cloth, 15*s.* 4*d.*; stipends for making 5 albs and thread for the same, 12*d.*; expenses for the cords of the bells—3 stone of hemp, 3*s.*; for making the work of the cords, 12*d.*; lime, 20*s.*

Total receipts, 21*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* Expenses, 25*l.* 15*s.* 1¾*d.*

1369.

Account of Brother Thomas Byfeld, co-canon and Sacristan of the Priory of Burencestre, of the Sacristy there, from Michas 42 to Michas 43, Edw. III.

Rents.—13s. 4d. from Stepulaston. 4s. from a tenement, formerly Robert Clerk's, of Burencestre. 3s. from Arne[cote]. 5s. from Chesterton. 7s. from Stodlee. 20d. from Buckunhull. 28s. from 5 qrs. of wheat of rent of the Manor of Heyford Waryn, sold.

Issues of the cemetery.—4s. from the herbage and nettles there sold.

Trentals and other perquisites.—4 rams received for the soul of Thomas ate. A trental arising from Stratton, for the soul of William Aleyn; from Weston, for the soul of Walter, and for the soul of Thomas Chaynny. Wheat (sold) of the gift of William Hayle. Buckwheat sold for the soul of Walter, the carpenter, of Burencestre. 7s. from a bracelet sold by name of a heriot after the death of the Lord William the Priest. A carpet (j. tapeto), by name of a heriot. A tunic, a heriot?

Oblations at the Great Altar, at various days and seasons.—15½d. on Easter Day from communicants at the mass of the Blessed Mary at the other altars. 4d. from an oblation at the burial of the son of Agnes Veye. 17d. from oblations on the day of Corpus Christi, from the daughters of the Lord Duke of Lancaster and from their servants. 4½d. on the day of the burial of Walter, a kinsman of the Lord Prior's.

Oblations to the relics and small oblations, on various days, including the days of St. Stephen and St. Edburga. 5d. from an oblation at the shrine. [Totals not stated.]

Expenses of wax, wine, and oil.—Wax at 7½d. per lb.; wine 8d. per flagon (lagena); oil 14d. per flagon.

1372.

Similar Account of Thomas de Byfeld, Sacristan, to the preceding, from Mich. 45 to Mich. 46, Edward III.

Rents (as before).—Also 3s. 4d. of new rent from Robert Wylton.—Sum, 57s. 4d.

Foreign receipts.—6s. 8d. received from the devotion of Bartholomew Darches; 3s. 4d. from the devotion of Isabel Darderne.

Issues of the cemetery and garden—nil.

Mortuaries, legacies, and trentals.—Of one coffer remaining "as in the preceding account" (not extant), nothing here, because given to the Vicar of Burcestre, of the gift of the Lord Prior. 2s. 6d. from half an acre of wheat of the bequest of Adam Myle, of Stratton. 2s. 6d. from half an acre of wheat of the bequest of Hugh Benhull. 2s. from half an acre of barley of the gift of Walter Gyle.

Oblations, 18s. 8½d.

Sum of the whole receipt, 4*l.* 13s. 0½d.

Surplus of the last account, 23s. 6d.

Necessary expenses.—30lb. of wax bought besides wax arising at the parish church and chapel of Stratton at the Purification of the Blessed Mary, 16s. 3d. Fifteen flagons of wine, 15s. 5½ flagons of oil at 20d. per flagon, 8s. 9d. Half-pound of frankincense, 10d. Thread for the wicks of the wax tapers (lichud cereorum), 6d. For making wax tapers (cereorum), this

year and eucharists, 16d. 6 lamps bought, 5d. For mending two silver vessels (viol') 2s. Cord for the Lenten veil, 2d. Cord for the bells, 18d. 20lb. of candles of Paris, 4s. 8d. Expenses of a groom seeking wine at Oxford at divers times, 6d. To a man making six capes anew, and mending other vestments for three weeks, taking by the week 2s., at table, 6s. One pair of stockings given to the same by agreement, 16d. To a tailor hired to help the same, for two weeks, 2s. To a tailor hired at the same [time] for one week and three days, 6d. One piece and a half of "card"? bought for the same capes, 9s. Silk "laces" at the same [time], 5s. Thread of divers colours bought at the same [time], 5s. 3 ells of canvas (canefs) bought to be put under the orfrayes,¹ 18d. White leather to make for the said canvas. 4d. Expenses of a man with a horse for buying and seeking the aforesaid "card," laces, and thread, 2s. For making two keys to the coffer for putting the chalice(s) in, with repair of the lock in the same, 10d. For making a key to a coffer in the Sacristy, with repair of the lock there, 6d. For making a "clyket" for the oil-house, 2d.—Sum, 4*l.* 2s. 7d.

Costs of the Church.—To a plumber replacing 9 leaden "pann'"? removed by the wind, over the choir, in gross, 3s. 4d. "And in agreement of the same for mending defects throughout the whole of the church this year, 5s. 200 nails bought at the same [time], 8d. 3lb. of tin (stagni), bought at the same [time], 12d.—Sum, 10s.

Stipend of the groom of the Sacristan and his fellow this year, as in their apparel and shoes, 5s. 9d. Stipend of one washerwoman (lotricis) this year, 8d. Salary of the Clerk making this account—(blank).—Sum, 6s. 5d.

Foreign expenses.—One pair of stockings bought and given to the Bailiff of Heyford Waryn, 16d.

Sum total, 6*l.* 18s. 0½d.

1374

Account of Thomas Byfeld, Canon and Sacristan of Burcestre, from Mich. 47 to Mich. 48 Edw. III (similar to former accounts).

Under the head of expenses.—To a man making wax [tapørs] by the year and helping to make "eucharists," 12d. For mending the censer of latten, 2s. Small cord for hanging the lamp (or lamps?) 3½d. To a man cleansing the cemetery and digging in the garden of the sacristy, for four days, at table, 4d. For mending one clapper for the bell, 10d. Parchment for seven accounts, 4d.

1383

Account of Brother Thomas B[yfeld] [Sacristan] of Burcester from Mich. 6 to Mich. 7 Ric. II. (similar to former accounts).

Rents, &c.—Received one brass pot arising by name of a heriot after the death of Christiana, wife of Nicholas Baker, which remains in store; and two pigeons by name of a heriot from Burcestre and Stratton after the death of two strangers, price 23½d.—Sum, 23½d.

Oblations to the high altar, &c.—10s. 1½d. from oblations on the day of the burial of the Prior deceased, Robert Blaket.

Sum of the whole receipt, 5*l.* 4s. 6½d.

¹ Embroidery: The word most generally applied to the borders of embroidery or needle work, down the cape on each side in front.—(Halliwell's Dictionary.)

Expenses (many as before).—14d. paid for a pair of stockings given to the bailiff of Heyford. 8d. given to the son of the same bailiff and to the women-winnowers (*ventrilatricibus*) there. 4d. to the servant of the Rector of the Church of Heyford Wareyn. 2s. given to Thomas the Painter (*pictor*) of St. Alban's. 12d. paid to the same about the burial of the Prior deceased. 12d. given to the Clerk of the Sacristan of the Abbey of Oseneye on the day of the burial of the same. 8½d. paid for Brother Byfeld and John Fayrmayn at Wyttenye (or Wyttoneye), to speak with the Lord Bishop of Winchester. 8[d.] paid for the expenses of William Yremonger at two times. 4[d.] paid for one pair of gloves given to the same William.

Total expenses, 4*l.* 17s. 9½d., exceeding the receipts by 6s. 9d.

On the dorse is :—

A similar Account from Mich. 7 to Mich. 8 Ric. II.

Sum of the receipt, 74s.

Expenses as before.—Gold bought for mending the red capes, 3s. 5d.; silk bought at the same [time], 21d.; Taffety, 16d. Sum of expenses, 4*l.* 14s. 2½d. Excess, 20s. 2½d.

1385

Account of Thomas Byfeld, Sacristan, Mich. 8 to Mich. 9 Ric. II.

Rents (as before).—Also 6s. 8d. from the tenement of William Carpenter; 2s. from the garden of Nicholas Bliseworth; 13s. 4d. for 5 qrs. of wheat sold of the rent of Heyford Wareyn. —Sum, 56s. Oblations, 6s. 5d.

Heriot.—7s. received, for a brass pot (before mentioned).

Expenses (as before).—10½ ells of linen cloth bought for making three albs, 8s. 9d.; for making the said albs with thread, 11d. For repair of two silver vessels (*fiol*), two crosses, and one chalice, repaired by Thomas, the goldsmith, 12d. 12 round hassocks ("*rundeles*") of straw for the choir, 14d. To one man hired for five days for making..... doors, 6d. Gold for the foot of a chalice to be gilt by the goldsmith aforesaid, 20d.

Given to Robert and Ralph, the clerks, for their oblations at sundry times in the year, 10d. 2 pair of shoes to Ralph, the clerk. "Given to other servants for their oblations at the Nativity and Easter, ———." [This item is struck out.]

Sum of expenses, 4*l.* 16s. 2d. [This includes the excess of the last account.]

Similar Account, from Mich. 9 to Mich. 10, Ric. II.—Rents, &c., as before.

Heriots.—20d. received for a chest sold arising by name of a heriot after the death of the mother of William Schereman. 22d. received from two sellions of wheat sold, arising from the legacy of William Duk and John Baford, of Wrechewyk.

Expenses.—8½ flagons of wine bought for celebrating mass, 7s. 1d.; price of the flagon, 10d.; "by so much the less this year, because of the gift of Lady le Straunge." 2 cords for the two

smaller bells, 13d. 2 locks with four keys for the doors of the Sacristy and the oil house, and 2 chests, 21d. 6 girdles for the vestments, 7d. 2 pieces of silk for the vestments, 12d. 12 lamps, 10d.

Stipends of Robert, the clerk and the second clerk.

Given to Richard Panter, dwelling with the Lady Lestaunge, 20d.

Similar Account.—10-11 Ric. II.

Rents, &c., as before.

Heriots and mortuaries.—2s. 6d. for 1 trental from a man of Langeton. 18d. for a bed-covering ("superlectile") arising by the death of the cook of Nicholas Bliseworthe. 3s. for a tunic coming by name of a heriot, by the death of the maid-servant of John Stotevyle. 5s. for a carpet (j. tapeto) coming by the name of a heriot, by the death of the maid-servant of John Evenle. 3s. 4d. for 1 chest sold, coming by the death of the wife formerly of Robert Tanner, 4s. received for the soul of Thomas Gybbes.

Expenses, as before.—2 pieces of worstede, with binding, thread, and making for the Lenten veil, 15s. 5d.¹ For mending 5 albs with new amices, with thread for the same, 5d. Linen cloth for three towels in the church, 12d. A lock for a small chest in the chamber of the clerk, 5d. Stipends of Richard, the clerk, and Walter, the second clerk. Given to John Somerton, dwelling here and assisting in the church, 12d.

1408.

BURNCESTRE.—Account of Brother John Burncestre, Canon of the Office of the Sacristy there, from Michas. 8 Hen. IV. to Michas. 9 Hen. IV.

Rents of Assize (similar to preceding accounts), 53s. 4d. Sales of mortuaries (various animals, being the mortuaries of various persons). Fleeces of 2 sheep and 1 lamb (that died) in the murrain. 6s. 8d. received for one furred coat of Thomas, Rector of Lechamstede, deceased, in Burcestre, this year. 13d. for a hood, the mortuary of a strange woman deceased, in Burcestre, this year. 2s. for one redd tunic, the mortuary of the maid of William Pyrnce, Senior, deceased this year. 6d. for a tunic, the mortuary of a boy deceased at Stratton, this year. Tunics and coats, mortuaries of other persons.—Total, 20s. 6d.

Sale of wool, 20lbs., 7s. 2d.

Tithes.—Rcc. of Ric. Smyth, for the tithe of two oxen which the said Richard sold this, year, 4d.; of the same for the tithe of honey, 11d.

Oblations on various feasts and saints' days.—2d. rec. on the day of the anniversary of John Cleydon. 13d. rec. on the day of St. Edburga the Virgin, at the great altar. 16d. rec. at the relics within the octave of St. Edburga. 4½d. rec. in the feast of the Dedication. 5½d. on the day of the burial of Brother Thomas de Sachenden, lately converted, deceased, this year. 5½d. on the day of the burial of the son of William Swoon, deceased, this year. 4d. found in the box at the shrine of St. Edburga.—Sum, 11s. 4½d.

Sum total of the receipt, 93s. 7½d.

¹ This was a thick hanging, more or less adorned, made of 2 parts, with an opening in the middle, between the Chancel and the nave of the Church to hide the view of the altar, during the 40 days fast.—See Bingham's Orig. Eccles. Book viii. Chap. vi. § 8.

Allowances.—He prays to be allowed for a tenement, formerly Robert Clerk's, for the past year, 2s. 8d., because in the life-time of Nicholas Blysewurth the aforesaid tenement paid yearly, as appears in divers accounts, 6s. 8d., that is to say in this manner—for the same tenement by the year of old time, 4s., that is to say, for the lamp burning—for the garden of the aforesaid Nicholas de Blysewurth next the cemetery, by the year, 2s.; and for the tithe of the said garden, by the year, 8d.; and in (moneys) repaid to the Dean and Subdean of old custom, that is to say, for the day of Our Lord's Nativity, and for the day of St. Edburga the Virgin, of oblations at the great altar 4d.—Sum. 3s.

Purchase of incense, wax, wine, oil and candles; some of the wine was bought at Oxford and Buckyngham:—46s. 9d.

Small necessities.—“Weke” (wick)—pots, &c.—white leather for covering books, 8d.; thread for the same [books], $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; two clasps bought at Oxford for the same, 5d.; whippcord-iron bought to mend the bell-clapper; a key for the door of the Sacristy, &c.

Stipends of labourers.—To John Scatttere, hired to amend divers defects about the church, 3d. Ric. Barbour hired to make lights against the feast of the purification of St. Mary, 6d. Smith, washerwoman, &c. William Erliche and William Leche hired to cleanse the cemetery against Palm Sunday, 3d.

Stipends of clerks.—“The senior clerk” and “the junior clerk” of the church, 11s. 10d.

Gifts.—Fish bought for the Vicar of Caveresfeld, 2d. To the sheep-shearers, 2d. To John Scheperde, 1d. To Ric. Barbur, 2d. To the carrier (portitor) of Stodeley, 3d.

Sum total of all expenses, 72s. 1d. And so the receipts exceed the expenses 21s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. He prays to be allowed 4s. 11d., the surplus of the last account, and so he owes clearly 16s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

1400

Similar Account (on the dorse of the preceding) from Michas. 10 to Michas. 11 Hen. IV.

Arrears from preceding account, 32s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Rents of assize, 58s. 8d.

Sale of mortuaries and stock.—“This year there was a very great murrain of sheep in the whole country.”—14s.

Tithes of honey, hemp, and flax (the hemp kept in stock for the bell ropes), 7d.

Oblations, 9s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Sum of the whole receipt, 105s. 10d.

Allowances.—Purchase of incense, wax, &c. Small necessities (a rope for the great bell, solder, pewter for solder, &c., &c.) Stipends of labourers. A plumber of Aylesbury hired to amend the defects of the lead above the great altar, &c. Two men hired to make a new wheel for the middle bell. Two men making the “hosts.” Wax-makers. John, the plumber, of Schenle, mending the defects of the lead above the aisle (insulam) of St. Nicholas and in divers other places of the church, 2s. 6d. Stipends of the clerks, and of the laundress (lotricis) for washing the vestments. Given to William Clokkemakere, 4d.—Sum of expenses, 103s. 8d.

1438 (?)

[Account] of Brother William Bath, Canon and Sacristan of the Priory of Burcestre, of all receipts and expenses by him made [in] the office of the Sacristy there, from the morrow of St. Michael the Archangel in the... xvi. [qu^y 16th, 26th, or 36th] year of the reign of King Henry the Sixth, after the Conquest to the same feast in the year following.

Arréars, of the last account, 21s. 10¾d.

Rents of assize.—7s. rent of the capital messuage of Joan Criklade in Cadenham, in Wilts. 13s. 4d. from one messuage and one virgate of land in Stipulaston. 8s. rent of of John Gyles in Burcestre. 4s. from Brewer there. 2s. from one messuage and one virgate of land, formerly Robert Purs's, in Chestreton. 3s. from the rent of a tenement called Frankleyns in Arnecote. 20s. from 5 qrs. of wheat of yearly rent of the Manor of H(eyford). sold.—Sum, 57s. 4d.

Foreign receipts.—5s. 7d. from pigeons had in the belfrey and other places of the walls, sold. 4d. from 1 wax [taper], sold to John Felmersham.—Sum, 5s. 11½d.

Sale of mortuaries.—20d. received from a brass pot, the mortuary of Alice Spynvester. Of 1 axe, the mortuary of Richard Scheperd, nothing in money, because it remains in store at Stratton.—Sum, 20d.

[Sale of wool.]—7s. 6d. received from the "todd" and 5lb. of wool sold.

.....—2s. received from John Boys for the tithe of the mill within the Priory. 2s. received from the same for the tithe of the garden of Blesworth.—Sum, 4s.

Oblations.—6d. received from the oblation at the high altar on the day of the Nativity of Our Lord. 1d. rec. on the trental day of John Hynbest. 12d. rec. from oblation(s) at the shrine on the day of St. Edburga. 17d. rec. in the night of St. Nicholas. 20d. rec. from oblation(s) on the day of Purification of St. Mary. 22d. on the day of Preparation and on Easter Day. 5d. on the day of the Dedication of the Church.—Sum, 6s. 11d.

Sum total of the receipt, 5*l.* 5s. 6¼d.

The said William prays to be allowed for moneys repaid to the Dean and Subdean on the days of the Nativity, Purification, and St. Edburga, of old custom, 6d.

Purchase of wax.—34lb. wax bought at various times, at 5¾d. and 6d. per lb.; some from Henry Eddon; 54lb. wax bought from the Prior. 2½lb. wick, 6½d. To Richard Cowper, making wax [tapers], 16d.; victuals for the same, 19d.—Sum, 42s. 4¼d.

Purchase of.... and wine.—For 3850 wafers ("oblat") bought from William Guld, for making Hosts, 3s. 2d.; price of the 100, 1d. 3 gallons of wine bought at Stratton, 2s.; price of the gallon, 8d. Wine bought at Oxford, 2s. 9d.; of Thomas Bernard, 3s. 9d. 1 bushel of wheat bought for making "oblat" and distributing [them] among the parishioners on Easter Day, 6d. Wine bought at Oxford, 6d.; of Walter Bellacise, 6½d.—Sum, 13s. 2½d.

Purchase of oil.—Sum, 11s. 1½d. (13½d. and 14d. per gallon).

Purchase of candles (1d. and 1½d. per lb.)—Sum, 5s. 5d.

Stipends of labourers.—Paid to the Lord of Stepulaston for amercements for his suit unjustly distrained, this year, 2d. Expenses of the Sacristan at Cadenham, for the rent there, 22½d.

To a mason hired to mend the chimney in the Sacristy, 20d. Thomas Smyth, of Langeton, and Robert Smyth, of Stratton, mending the defects of the clock ("orlag"), 7d. To John Sherman, hired to mend the defects of the timber about the bells, 6d. To the same, making two wheels for the said bells, 2s. 11½d. To Matthew Carpenter, making a door (hostium) in the cemetery, for 2 days, 8d. Grease (pinguedo) for the bells, 7d. Washing the vestments of the church for 2 years, 12d. Rushes for the choir, 1d. 9 gallons of (?) for ringers in the night..... and for pilgrims on the day of St. Edburga and St. James, 13½d. To Richard York, hired to trim (ad defrondend') the trees in the cemetery, 5d. To Walter Bellacyse, hired to fold wool, 3d. Victuals for the sheep-shearers, 8½d. To William Carpenter, hired to hew the trunk of an ash within the cemetery for making boards, for two days, and not succeeding, 6d. To two sawyers, sawing the said trunk (stipitem), 2 days, 13d. Mending of one "tribula," (tripod?) 1d.—Sum, 14s. 4d.

..... Nails bought, 3½d. Linen girdles, 3d. 1 cord (corda), for the small bell in the belfrey, 10½d. Thread for mending vestments, 5½d. 13 ells of linen cloth bought of Isabella Fuller, for making albs, 7s. 3½d.; price of the ell. ¾d.—Sum, 9s. 2d.

Stipend.—Stipend of Robert, the clerk, by the year, 13s. 4d. 1 gown (toga) for the same, 3s. 11d.—Sum, 17s. 3d.

..... to William Howse, farmer, of Stepulaston, bringing the rent, 1d. To Richard York, fetching the rent..... To Robert, the clerk, at times, 5½d. To divers men fetching wine.....—Sum, 15½d.

Sum of all expenses, 114s. 7¼d.

The expenses exceed the receipts 9s. 2d.

1457.

Account of Brother William Bath, Canon and Sacristan of the Priory of Burcestre, of all receipts and expenses by him made in the Office of the Sacristy there, from the morrow of St. Michael the Archangel, in the 35th year of the reign of King Henry the Sixth after the Conquest, to the same feast in the year following.

Arrears.—18s. 3d. as at the foot of the last account.

Rents of assize.—7s., the rent of the capital messuage of Joan Cryklade, in Cadenham, in Wilts. 14s. 4d. from one messuage and one virgate of land in Stepulaston. 8s. the rent of the tenement of John Gyles, in Burcestre. 4s. the rent of the tenement of John Brewer there. 2s. from 1 messuage and 1 virgate of land, formerly of Robert Purs, in Chestreton. 3s. the rent of a tenement balled Frankleyns, in Arnecote. 18s. 8d. from 5 qrs. of wheat of yearly rent of the Manor of Hayford, sold.—Sum, 54s.

Foreign receipts.—4s. 5d. from pigeons had in the belfrey and other places belonging to the Church, 4s. 5d.—Sum, 4s. 5d.

Sales of mortuaries.—12d. from 1 sheep arising from the mortuary of Master John Jonys, of Stratton, sold. 7d. from 1———?, arising from the mortuary of Alice Wylkyns, of Stratton, sold. 12d. from one ewe sold.—Sum, 2s. 7d.

Sale of wool.—1 tod and a half and 3lb., 10s.

Small tithes.—6d. from one tithe lamb, sold to John Boys. 2s. from John Boys, for the tithe of a garden called le Blisworth.—Sum, 2s. 6d.

Oblations.—4d. received from the oblation at the high altar on the day of the Nativity of the Lord. 7d. on the day of the Purification of B. Mary. 11d. on the day of Preparation, on the Adoration of the Cross, and also on Easter Day, for the communion of the servants. 14d. on the day of St. Edburga, both at the mass and at the relics. 17d. on the feast of St. Nicholas. 1d. on the day of [All] Souls. 2½d. on the day of the purification of Marg[ery] Boys. 4d. on the day of the dedication of the church.—Sum, 5s. 0½d.

Sum total of the receipt, 4*l*. 16s. 9¾d.

Allowances.—Paid to the Dean and Subdean, of old custom, at Easter and on the day of St. Edburga, 4d.

Purchase of wax.—37½lb. of wax for wax (tapers), of Henry Edyn, 18s. 9d., at 6d. lb.

Purchase of bread and wine.—Wafers bought of William Gulde for making Hosts, 22d., viz., 22 hundred. 9 gallons of wine and 1 "potel" (pottle=half a gallon), bought of divers men, 6s. 4d., with expenses of the fetchers, 12d. 1 "potel" of wine bought "at times," 4d.—Sum, 9s. 6d.

Purchase of oil.—10 gallons and 1 "potel" of oil, bought of John Hunch, 12s. 3d.; price of the gallon, 14d.

Purchase of candles.—4 doz. and 14lb. of candles, bought for light in the choir, 5s. 4d.; price of the lb., 1d. 2½ wick (lichinis) bought, 2½d.—Sum, 5s. 6½d.

Small necessities.—1 key bought for the chamber of the Sacristy, 2d. Thread bought for mending vestments, 2½d. 1 thresher (tribula) bought of Richard Salter, with iron (ferr'), 4d. 2 cords bought for the veil (velamine), 9½d. Rushes for the choir, 1d. 3 gallons of ale, bought against the feast of St. Edburga, for the pilgrims, 4½d. 1 canopy (canopia), for the high altar, 7s.—Sum, 8s. 11½d.

Stipends of labourers.—Paid to Geoffrey Dyger and his fellow, hired to cleanse the pond within the cemetery, for four days, 2s. 8d. To John Bellasuce, hired to fold wool, 2d. To Wm. Sclatter, for tiling of the church, 5d. To the shepherd of the Lord Prior, at times, 3d. To Richard Cowper, hired to make wax (tapers), at times, 16d. Victuals bought for the same, 10d.—Sum, 5s. 8d.

Clerk's stipend.—Stipend of Robert, the clerk. 13s. 4d.

Gifts.—To Poule, of Hayford, bringing his rent at divers times, 3d. To the clerks in the night of St. Nicholas, in two pair of gloves, 2d., and in moneys 2d.—Sum, 7d.

Sum of all expenses, 3*l*. 14s. 11d.

And the receipts exceed the expenses, 21s. 10¾d.

One other account is extant, but the date is uncertain, and it is much mutilated. It contains nothing of new interest.

KITCHENER'S ACCOUNTS.

The office of cellarer, or kitchener, was to superintend everything that related to the provisioning of the household. The rents of certain farms, and a few other profits, were assigned to meet the ordinary expenses of his department (extras being paid for out of the Bursars' accounts). He had under his charge the miller, baker, cooks, swineherd, and others. He also superintended the live stock, and all the arrangements of the slaughter house, and attended markets. One only of the accounts of this office has been preserved, but this is sufficient to give an insight into the ordinary food consumption of the Convent establishment. A feature in this account is that, instead of detailing the expenses of each day, those of the week are lumped together, each account being dated from the first day of the week.

1400.

BURCESTRE.—Account of Brother William Islep, kitchener (*coquinarii*) there, from Michas, 23 Ric. II., to Michas, 1 Hen. IV.—Household.

Month of October.

First Sunday.—In beef, 2s. 6d.; in pork, 8d.; in mutton, 8d.; in salmon, 13d.; in 2 pikes (*pickerell*'), 6d.; in fresh herring, 20d.; in red herring, 10d.; in eggs, 16d.; in cheese, 3d.; in milk, 1½d. And from the store, half a quarter of salt beef, half a leg (*perna*) of one sheep, 1 goose, 6 fowls and chickens (*pult' et pull'*), 1 stockfish, 18 dozen and 8 pigeons.—Sum, 9s. 7½d.

Second Sunday.—In beef, 2s. 8d.; in veal, 7d.; in salmon, 7d.; in fresh herring, 18d.; in red herring, 5½d.; in eels, 3d.; in stockfish, 5d.; in "lynge," 8d.; in milk, 2½d.; in eggs, 18½d.; in pepper, 2d. And from the store, half a quarter of salt beef, 1 hog, 2 sheep, 2 geese, 3 chickens, 16 doz. and 10 pigeons.—Sum, 8s. 7½d.

Third Sunday.—In beef, 3s. 11d.; in fresh herring, 14d.; in half-salted herring, 22d.; in salmon, 2d.; in hard fish, 10d.; in "milewell'," 4d.; in "lynge," 8d.; in milk, 5d.; in eggs, 17d. And from the store, 1 hog, 3 sheep, 1 capon, 3 fowls, 14 doz. and 8 pigeons.—Sum, 10s. 9d.

Fourth Sunday.—In beef, 20d.; in salmon, 5d.; in fresh herring 14d.; in eels, 3d.; in 600 half-salted herring, 12d.; in hard fish 8d.; in "lynge," 7d.; in milk, 3½d.; in eggs, 18d. And from the store, 1 hog, 2 sheep, 1 capon, 1 goose, 1 fowl, 1 eel, 13 doz. and 5 pigeons.—Sum, 7s. 6½d.

Month of November.

First Sunday, &c.—(Similar accounts for each month follow.)

HOSPITALLER'S ACCOUNTS.

The Monasteries, until the end of the XIVth Century, opened their doors to all travellers, supplying them with lodging, and, if they did not bring it with them, with food also, for a day and night, and for a longer period if specially granted. The Hostrey, or Guest House, where they were received without entering the Convent, was under the charge of a monk called there-

fore The Hospitaller, or Hostiler (corrupted into Hostler), whose duty was to perform the part of host on behalf of the brethren. The expenses of the hostrey extended only to ordinary food, and were trifling, all luxuries provided for distinguished guests being defrayed by the Bursar. The only account of this department known to be extant is a late one.

Account of Brother Thomas Wycombe, Hostelar, at Burcester, from Michas., 1377, to Michas., 1379, viz., for 2 years.

Received.—20s. of rent from John Duffeld.

Expenses.—Delivered to Brother Thomas Wycombe, Cellarer, 20s. And equal.

Soon after this date the Hostrey was converted into a public inn, where a religious service was held, probably daily, by one of the monks.¹ In the Bursar's account of 1425 it is mentioned as such.

Stores of the Inn, and in white bread bought at different times, as appears by the bill, namely, for the Prior and other guests, 3s. 10d.; and in all, namely, 132½ gallons bought of Joan Spinar, Alice Bedale, and other alewives, as appears by the bill, &c., 4s. 10d.; and in 3 gallons of red wine, bought of Robert Brasyer, of Burcestre, at 8d. per gall., 31s. 4d.; and in 33 gallons, 3 quarts of sweet wine, bought of the same, at 16d. per gall., 5s., &c.; and in canvas bought at London by Richard Dymby, before the feast of St. Osith the Virgin, for making sheets, 3s.; and in a bolt of red silk at Steresbrugge, for making a cape (anabatam), 4s. 8d., &c.—Sum, 104s. 0½d.

At the beginning of the XVIth Century this inn was known by the sign of "The Bell"; and, having become separated from the Priory, was kept by a woman.²

THE GRANGER'S ACCOUNTS.

1347.

Account of William Palmere, Gerentarius,³ of Burencestre, from Mich., 20 Edw. III., to Mich., 21 Edw. III.

Rents of assize of Burencestre and Wrechewyk, aids of Bondmen, &c.—11l. 5s.

Firms.—Issues of the Manor.—Sales of Grain.—Sales of Store.—Perquisites of Court.—(These entries are partially defaced and mutilated.

Sum of the whole receipt, 24l. 10s. 2d.

Costs of the carts, tanning hides, &c. Purchase of oats.

Paid at Ambresdon for four amercements, 13d.

Money delivered to the Bursar(s) of Burencestres, 24l. 15s. 6¼d.

Sum of expenses and liveries, 27l. 2s. 8d.; exceeding the receipts by 52s. 6d.

¹ This appears from the mention of a cope in the following account.

² See Valor Eceles. in the Dissolution of the Priory, which follows.

³ A misspelling, it seems, of Granetarius.

Account of grain, &c., received and expended.—“For the custom of the bondmen (nativorum,) of Wrethewick, for their “matshepe,” 4 bushels (of wheat?)

Grain was received from Clifton, Caversfeld, Arnecote, Stratton, and Westcote.

1397.¹

“Account of the Brethren William Islepe, Richard Albon, and William Hyne, bailiff of the grange, of all kinds of grain, and yearly outgoings of the grange aforesaid. The same account of viii^{xxviiij} quarters of wheat threshed in the grange, as appears by 3 tallies against the reckoners, as appears by the tallies of the same, and against William Hyne and the servants of the said grange, and the same taxers of the threshing also by days. And of iiij quarters iiij bushels bought in the market place by Hugh Spinan, bailiff, for seed, as appears in the roll of this year below. And of v quarters received of the grinding of the new wind mill.—Total, ix^{xxvij} quarters iiij bushels.

“Of this the same reckon in delivery to the baker cxv quarters, and through the kitchen iiij bushels, as appears by tally, and also by the inscription of Brother William Islepe. And in seed xxxviiij quarters, and vij bushels. And besides in seed iiij quarters iiij bushels bought in the market place. And to Thomas Trevet, of Curtlyngton, iiij bushels. And of the Prior's gift in liveries to the servants, as appears by tally, between William Hyne aforesaid and the same, xx quarters and j bushel, besides viij quarters j bushel due to the same, and vij bushels to be taken from the threshing of a future year, and delivered to some of them in part payment of the present year. And delivered at the bakehouse from the grinding of the mill, v quarters. And delivered to John Bedale, of the Prior's gift, j bushel. And delivered to the servant at the first stalling of the cattle, of custom, by the Prior's gift, j bushel.—Total, ix^{xxv} quarters v bushels.

“And thus the reckoners reckon there remains of receipts ij quarters vi bushels, &c., &c.

“Of barley. The same account of cccj quarters and iiij bushels, threshed in the grange, &c.

“Of this the same reckons in livery to the alekeepers, ccxxix quarters, but by the ale makings of all kinds, as appears by the inscription of Brother William Islepe, ccx quarters, and no more, because of malt winnowed no more was received than xv quarters of malt, as below. Of livery at the Hostelry, to John Covell, by estimation xi bushels. And in seed iiij^{xx} quarters and j quarter. And to Thomas Novet, of the Prior's gift, iiij bushels. And to the servant at the first stalling of the cattle, of custom, ij bushels.

“And thus the reckoners reckon that the expenses exceed the receipts ix quarters ij bushels.

“Of beans and peas. The same account of lvii quarters, vij bushels, threshed by the same William and the other servants and by some bondmen of Wrecchewyk, of the issue of the same grange. And of iiij bushels bought by Hugh Spinan in the market place, as below.

“Of this the same reckon in seed, xvij quarters and iv bushels.

“And in feeding little pigs, iiij quarters vi bushels. And for feeding the horses of the Prior's stable, and of the carts, iiij. bushels. And in selling oats to the Lord the King, xii quarters. And in liveries to the servants, xxix quarters ij bushels. Of this there are due to the same servants, vij quarters and iiij bushels. And in feeding pigs, iiij bushels, bought in the market place as above.

“And thus the expenses exceed the receipts ij quarters ij bushels,” &c.

1447.

Account of grain, stock, hides, &c.

For ale brewed for the Prior and Convent and servants, 161 qrs. 4 bz. of malt.

Cows.—I received of the heriot of John Bodycote, of Clyfton, as appears by the court-roll. I received of the heriot of John Dey. I received of the said John by name of a mortuary. I received by name of the mortuary of John Castell. &c.

Murrain amongst the sheep.

1452.¹

Issues of the grange, grain, stock, &c.

1 horse received of the mortuary of Robert Stawnton.

38 lambs received of the tithe in Burcestre, Bygenhull, and Wrecchewyk. 28 lambs, of the tithe in Stratton.

Murrain amongst the sheep.

DISSOLUTION OF THE PRIORY.

No records are forthcoming to picture to us the state of this Priory in the latter days of its existence. We shall not however err if we suppose that they were those of decline.

"This is the moral of all human tales,
'Tis but the same rehearsal of the past ;
First freedom, and then glory ; when that fails,
Wealth, vice, corruption ; barbarism at last ;
And History, with all her volumes vast,
Hath but one tale."

—(Byron's *Childe Harold*.)

As early as the days of Edward II. and Henry V., the monasteries had been threatened, but then the attack was confined to such as belonged to foreign abbeys, on the ground only that they drained the revenues of England out of the country. The whole character of the movement soon changed, and the first note of distinct warning sounded, when in 1489 Pope Innocent VIIIth granted to John Morton, Archbishop of Canterbury, at the request of King Henry VIIth, an authority to enquire into and correct the abuses which were charged as prevalent in many of the religious houses of England.² This threefold warning from King, Pope, and Primate, came yet more directly home two years later, when the Archbishop, travelling on

¹ These two last accounts are written on the back of the Bursar's accounts of the years mentioned.

² Hook's *Lives of the Archbishops*, vol. v. chap. xxii. p. 456.

a tour of invitation throughout his province, in great state, with the Cross of Canterbury carried before him, and attended by a numerous suite, came to Burcester to inspect the condition of this Priory.

The spread of doctrines and opinions opposed to the settled belief of many ages, and bent on reformation, next aroused attention; and these assumed a serious form, when in 1521 the gates of this Priory were opened for the reception of some persons who had been adjudged guilty of heresy, and were sent by John Longland, Bishop of the Diocese, to be imprisoned here for the rest of their lives.¹

There followed next the great question of the supremacy. On June 9, 1534, a royal proclamation was issued requiring the clergy publicly to denounce the Papal usurpation, and to inculcate the King's authority in all causes ecclesiastical and civil. The Prior and Canons of this house then hastened to make their submission in terms provided for their use.²

(Translation.)

"Since it is not only the principle of the Christian religion and of piety, but the rule of our obedience also, not only to show to our lord King Henry, the VIIIth of his name, to whom alone after Jesus Christ our Saviour we owe it, every kind of devotion of mind, fidelity, respect, honour, worship, reverence in Christ, and the same sincere, entire, perpetual, but also to give our reason for the same fidelity and respect as often as it shall be asked, and most gladly to testify these before all men, if the occasion requires, let all men to whom the present writing comes know that we, William Browne, Prior of the House or Priory of the Blessed Mary and St. Edburge, of Burcester, of the Order of St. Augustine, in the County of Oxford, Diocese of Lincoln, and the Convent of the same place, do with one mouth and voice, and with unanimous consent and assent, by this our writing under our common seal given in our Chapter House, for ourselves and our successors all and each, for ever, profess, testify, and faithfully promise and vow that we, the aforesaid Prior and Convent, and our successors all and each, will ever show full, inviolate, sincere, and perpetual fidelity, respect, obedience towards our lord the King Henry the VIIIth, and towards Queen Anne, his wife, and towards his offspring of the same Anne, both born and to be born; and that these same also we will notify, publish, and recommend to the people whenever place and occasion shall be given. Also that we regard it as settled and approved, and always and for ever will so regard it, that the aforesaid King Henry is Head of the Church of England; also that the Bishop of Rome, who in his bulls usurps the

¹ The names of them, which were abjured in the Diocese of "Lincoln in the year of our Lord 1521"; "the towns, villages, "and counties which these foresaid persons did inhabit"; and "the books and opinions, which these were charged withal, and "for which they were abjured" are given in Fox's Book of Martyrs, vol. ii. p. 40. The Bishop's letter, accompanying them (50 in number) was directed to the heads of the monasteries of Oseney, St. Frideswide, Abingdon, Thame, Bissitor, Dorchester, Notley, Ashbridge and others, and was as follows:—

"My loving Brother, I recommend me heartily unto you; and "whereas I have according to the law put this bearer ——— "to perpetual penance within your monastery of ——— there "to live as a penitent and not otherwise; I pray you, and never-

"theless according unto the law command you, to receive him, "and see you order him there according to his injunctions, which "he will shew you if you require the same. As for his lodging "he will bring it with him; and his meat and drink he may have, "such as you give of your alms. And if he can so order himself "by his labour within your house in your business, whereby he "may deserve his meat and drink, so may you order him as ye "see convenient to his deserts, so that he pass not the precincts of "your monastery. And thus fare you heartily well. From my "place, &c.

² "A certayn order to be observed towards my lord King "Henry VIII., and in what estimacion wee are to holde ye "Bishop of Rome." (Ledger of Worcester Monastery.)

name of Pope, and claims for himself the first place of the chief Bishops, has no greater jurisdiction, conferred on him by GOD in the Holy Scriptures, in this kingdom of England than any other foreign bishop; also that none of us in any sacred assembly, privately or publicly held, will call the same Bishop of Rome our Pope, or Chief Bishop, but our Bishop of Rome, or of the Church of Rome; and that none of us will pray for him as Pope, but as Bishop of Rome. Also that we will cleave to the said lord King only, and his successors, and will maintain his laws and decrees, renouncing for ever the laws, decrees, and canons of the Bishop of Rome which shall be found to be contrary to the Divine Law and the Holy Scriptures, or to the rights of this kingdom. Also that none of us in any either private or public address will presume to twist to a foreign meaning anything taken out of the Holy Scriptures, but will each preach in Catholic and orthodox order, Christ, His words and works, simply, suitably, honestly, both according to the pattern or rule of the Holy Scriptures, and the truly Catholic and orthodox doctors. Also that each one of us in his customary prayers and supplications will commend to GOD and to the prayers of the people, first of all the King, as Supreme Head of the Church of England, then Queen Anne, with their offspring, then afterwards the Archbishops of Canterbury and York with the other orders of the Clergy, as shall seem good. Further that we all and each, the aforesaid Prior and Convent and our successors, firmly bind ourselves by the bond of our conscience and oath, that we will faithfully for ever observe all and each of the aforesaid matters. In testimony whereof we affix our common seal to this our writing, and have subscribed our names each with his own hand. Given in our Chapter House, the 11th day of August, in the one thousandth five hundredth and thirty fourth year of the Lord." ¹

By me, WILLIAM, Prior aforesaid.

By me, JOHN MYDYLTON.

By me, RALPH LATHAM.

By me, ROBERT BYGNELL.

By me, JOHN CHESTR.

By me, ROBERT CAU'FLEYDE.

By me, JAMES BURSCOUGH.

By me, JOHN BURCESTER.

By me, JOHN LAUNTON.

The royal supremacy being established, the King soon proceeded to exercise the rights which were supposed to belong to it. In 1535, after Wolsey's fall, he gave authority to Thomas Cromwell, his Vicar General, to hold a visitation of the monasteries, with liberty to call others to his assistance as commissioners or deputies. It was then apparent that a sweeping attack, and that under the guise of reform, was to be inaugurated; and then through every religious house in England there awoke that dismay and dread which a royal commission was wont to arouse, when such was more rare than it is now. The visitation commenced in October, 1535. A few, like the London Carthusians, chose to die rather than yield a submission which their consciences forbade, but in most monasteries Henry VIIIth's Commissioners were quietly received, and obtained the information which they were sent to gather. ² The returns made from this Priory

¹ Preserved in the Augmentation Office. Facsimiles of these signatures, and of the seal attached to this deed of acknowledgment, are given in Dunkin's History of Bullington and Ploughley Hundreds, vol. ii. appendix No. v.

The Priory Seal represents two whole length figures under a double Gothic canopy, one the Virgin and Child, the other St.

Eadburga, with the arms of the Priory in the exergue, and an inscription running round, "Prioratus de Burencester—S..... conventus."

See Rymer, vol. xiv. 514.

² The results of their enquiries were afterwards recorded in a book, called therefrom "Henry VIII. Valor Ecclesiasticus."

show the exact condition of its property at this time. The monks were holding in their own occupation the following lands, the annual value of which was assessed at xiiij*l.* vijs. ix*d.*

	<i>℥</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
In arable lands, namely, xi virgates of land, with their appurtenances, lying in the fields of le Markett-ende of the said Burcestre, containing cciiij ^{xx} and vj acres at iiij <i>d.</i> an acre yearly	iiij	xv	iiij
Also in arable lands, namely, $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate of land lying in le Kyngsende, containing xv acres with their appurtenances, at iiij <i>d.</i> an acre yearly	—	v	—
In arable lands, namely, one piece of land adjoining the gate Le Grange, containing xii acres, at iiij <i>d.</i> an acre yearly	—	iiij	—
Also in arable lands in the hamlet of Wrechwyk, in the parish of Burcestre, namely, ij $\frac{1}{2}$ virgates of land, containing iiij ^{xx} and xv acres, with 5 buttes with their appurtenances, at iiij <i>d.</i> an acre yearly ..	—	xxv	x
Total of the arable land			
Total of the value of the same arable land	vj	x	ij

In a separate pasture called le Wynter Pasture, leading towards le Gravenhull, containing xliiij $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, in 3 separate parts, with the hedges, at v <i>d.</i> per acre	—	xviiij	vj $\frac{1}{2}$
In a separate pasture called le Weston Heyes, with a hedge in the middle of the same pasture containing xli $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, at xix <i>d.</i> per acre yearly	iiij	v	viiij $\frac{1}{2}$
Also in another separate pasture called le Overbreche, containing xl acres, at viij <i>d.</i> per acre yearly	—	xxvj	viiij
In a piece of meadow lying in le Westmede, containing 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, at ijs. per acre yearly	—	xj	—
Also a separate pasture called le Horse Close, near the Monastery, containing vii $\frac{1}{2}$ acres at viij <i>d.</i> per acre yearly	—	v	—
Total of the value of the aforesaid acres.....	vj	vj	xj

Also in a certain meadow called Longford Mede, containing iiij acres, at xii <i>d.</i> per acre yearly	—	iiij	—
In the same meadow, namely, Longford Mede, iiij acres, at xvj <i>d.</i> per acre yearly.....	—	v	iiij
Also in a certain field called Blakthorne Felde, containing ij acres of meadow, at viij <i>d.</i> per acre yearly	—	—	xvj
Total	—	x	viiij

Their remaining property in Burcester and Wrecwic were let at the following rents:—

	£	s.	d.
First, from Margery Coplande, for the Hospice le Bell, with the mill within the said Priory, with lands and closes with their appurtenances, as appears by an indenture demised to her, yearly	vj	iiij	—
From Richard Banaster, gentelman, for a close adjoining the aforesaid Priory, demised to him, as appears by an indenture, yearly	—	xl	—
From John Lamborne, for Crockwell close, together with a pigeon house, as appears by an indenture demised to him, yearly.....	—	xiiij	—
From 15 customary tenants, namely, by cottages in the same village, held at the will of the Lord, in yearly rents	iiij	xii	iiij
From John Bodycote, of Burcester aforesaid for the "Lamp acre" lying in a certain meadow called "Demayne Mede," thus demised to him, yearly....	—	—	xj
Total	xiiij	x	iiij

From lands formerly the demesne lands of the aforesaid Monastery, and now demised to ferm, in the hamlet called le Wrecwyk, in the parish of Burcestre aforesaid, demised to ferm by an indenture for a term of years to these persons following:—

	£	s.	d.
From John Lamborne, for 2 closes in the same hamlet, and for 2 pieces of meadow in the Kyngsende, in the aforesaid parish, yearly	iiij	xvij	iiij
From John Bodycote, for two closes there, with $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate of land lying in Blackthorn Field, in the parish aforesaid, yearly	iiij	—	—
From John Maunde, for a close under the Wood there, called The Gravenhull, yearly	iiij	xiiij	iiij
From John Nashe, for a tenement there, with $\frac{1}{2}$ virgate of land with appurtenances, yearly	—	vj	viiij
From the widow of William Walker, for a tenement with lands and closes with appurtenances, thus demised to him by an indenture, yearly..	—	xxxiiij	iiij
From Nicholas White, for a close called le Overbreche, thus demised to him, yearly	iiij	—	—
From William Bosworthe, for a tenement there, held at the will of the Lord, with appurtenances, yearly.....	—	vi	viiij
For lands lying in Blakthorne Field, yearly let between the tenants or inhabitants of the same manor by the Bailiff of the said manor, yearly.....	iiij	vj	viiij
Total receipts	xxij	iiij	—

From these receipts the Monks claimed some deductions:—

	£	s.	d.
Of a pension to the Abbot and Convent of Osney and their successors, to be paid yearly and for ever	iiij	—	—
Paid to the Lord of Bygenhull, for a tenement in King's-end of the village of Burcestre aforesaid, yearly	—	—	xx
Paid to the Sheriff of Oxford for the castell' fee, yearly	—	iiiij	—
Paid to the principal Lord for release of suit of court at Burcestre afore- said, yearly	—	vj	viiij
Paid to the Archdeacon of Oxford for the procurations and synodals of the churches of Burcestre aforesaid, yearly... ..	—	x	vij½
For bread and wine at the celebration of daily mass for sick and pregnant women, and at the feast of Easter for all the inhabitants, as appears by a composition made thereof, yearly.....	—	xx	—
Paid to the Bailiff, namely, John Nashe, of the manor of Burcestre, and Wrechewyk, for his fee, yearly	—	xl	—

Their other property was producing the following rents:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Stratton Audeley.....	16	0	0	Samford ..	0	5	0
Dadyngton, Clyston, and Hempton	32	0	2½	Buckenhill	0	5	0
Kyrtlyngton and Tackley	12	1	0	Ardyngton (Berks).....	14	0	0
Arnecote	4	9	0	Letcombe Basset (Berks)	4	0	0
Steeple Aston	0	13	4	Grymesbury next Banbury.....	13	6	8
Middylton.....	2	0	0	Neithrope	1	12	0
Wendylbury	0	10	0	Beamonde next Myssenden (Bucks).....	13	7	8
Chesterton.....	0	5	0	Wescott (Bucks)	4	10	0
Fryngford	0	2	0	Blakenkull (Bucks).....	1	0	0
Hayford Waren	1	6	8	Compton Basset (Wilts)	4	0	0
Cav'felde	2	13	4	Stodeley	0	0	0
				(no payment)			

These returns made to the Royal Commissioners were certified by

JOHN MIDDLETON, Sub-prior there.
WILLIAM FYNCH, Sexton.
WILLIAM CAV'FELDE, Cellarer.

} Not having any lands, tenements, or offices in
the aforesaid Monastery in succession, or fees or
yearly stipends except at the will of the Prior.

The names of the Canons in the said Monastery:—

WILLIAM BROWNE, Prior there.
JOHN MIDDLETON, Sub-prior there.
RALPH LATHAM, Canon there.
BOBERT BIGNELL.
JOHN CHESTER.
ROBERT CAV'FELDE.

JAMES BRYSTOWE.
JOHN BURCESTRE.
JOHN LAWNTON.
RICHARD WODSTOK.
NICHOLAS CONY.
WILLIAM HAMPTON.¹

	£	s.	d.
Deductions	xxxij	viiij	ix½
The sum of the hole possession, spuell and tempall demaynes and other is	clxxvj	viiij	½
The same of the deductions and repayments is	xxxix	viiij	vj½
The hole sume declar'd is.....	cxlviij	ij	x
Tenths for the Lord the King....	xiiiij	xiiiij	iiij½

¹ From the absence of the last three names from the former deed of submission, it is probable that they, who bore them, were novices. It will be noticed that the Canons still continued to be taken chiefly from this neighbourhood.

To these returns the monks appended the following petition :

We, the seide Prio^r and Covent of the seide Priory, moste humbly beseche the Kyng^e's moste Graciouse Highnes and his moste honnorable counsell that thois sumes and charg^e hereafter foloyng may be allowed, which charges byn annual and ppetuall and for no lesse necessitie than the fees and charg^e of auditours, receyvours, and baylyffs and other charges as heraft^r foloithe :—

	£	s.	d.
Furste, for brede, wyne, and wax erely spente within the seide Priory aboughte the dyvyne svice according to their foundacion	vj	—	—
Itm for the costs and charg ^e of the audit ^r and receyvour genall in the audite tyme	vj	xij	iiij
Itm the same Prio ^r desirethe allownc ^e of the visitation of the bishopp evy iiij ^{de} yere £iiij vjs. viij ^d ., which is yearly every yere	—	xxij	ij ^½
Itm for the cost ^e charg ^e and expenc ^e of the same bishop and his officers and menyall serv ^{nts} in and at the time of visitation every iiij ^{de} yere, which is £— xliiij ^s . iiij ^d . yearly.	vj	xiiij	iiij
£cxlvij vjs. x ^½ ^d .			

The Commissioners were ready with their report when Parliament met in the following February. From their known opinions it was not likely to be a favourable one. Soon after receiving it, the Lords and Commons, "by a great deliberation," resolved "that all the Monasteries which^e had not land or other hereditaments above the clear yearly value of £200, with their lands and other hereditaments, and their ornaments, jewels, goods, chattels, and debts, should be given to the King, his heirs or assigns for ever, to do and to use therewith of his and their own wills, to the pleasure of Almighty GOD, and to the honour and profit of the realm.¹

It is at first sight surprising to find no decided or general opposition offered to so destructive a measure, if we consider simply the regard usually paid to old and vested interests, but this is explained when we remember that the Monasteries had long placed themselves in a false position. They had been constant in asserting their claim to be outside and independent of the Church; they mostly repudiated and defied the authority and control of the Diocesan; they recognised no head but the Pope. Their greater wealth, moreover, made them an object of jealousy, if not of envy, to the less liberally endowed parochial clergy, and thus there was but little love between the Regulars and Seculars, and so it came about that when evil days fell upon the Monasteries, the Church, in the person of her prelates and clergy, did not raise a finger to arrest the work of their dissolution.

Before the close of 1536 this Priory, sharing the fate of the 374 lesser Monasteries of England, was surrendered into the King's hands. The deed of surrender has been lost, probably among the many records connected with the Monasteries, which were destroyed in the subsequent reign, but we can imagine how it breathed the same tone of submission to the King's

¹ The scheme of reform propounded was, forming 18 additional bishoprics, the further advancement of learning in the Universities, the foundation and endowment of grammar schools and hospitals throughout the country. By this suppression of the lesser monasteries no less a sum than £34,000 per ann. and £100,000 worth

of plate, jewels, goods, and other Church ornaments, was brought to the Crown, but nothing came of the scheme except the founding of the six bishoprics of Oxford, Peterborough, Chester, Bristol, Gloucester, and Westminster.

will as is observable in most of the monastic letters of that date. A yearly pension was allowed to the Prior for his life out of the funds of the suppressed house.

Com. Oxon.¹

Burcheſter Mon.

Pensio.

£ s. d.

Will. Brown, laſt Prior 24 0 0

The Canons received only a paltry recompence, a prieſt's gown, and 40s. if they became ſeculars,² while the ſervants and other dependents were diſmiſſed without any compenſation whatever. The ſubſequent hiſtory of the inmates of the Priory is a blank, ſave of one,

Anno 1555. On Eaſter Sunday a prieſt, ſometime a monk of Ely and of Burceſter, named William Branch, *alias* Flower, with a wood knife wounded another prieſt, as he was miniſtering the ſacrament to the people in St. Margaret's Church, Weſtminſter. For this act he was ſentenced to have his right hand cut off on April 24th; and for his religious opinions he was afterwards burned in the Sanctuary near to St. Margaret's Churchyard.³

It was Cromwell's order that the Churches, together with their adjoining cloiſters, of the ſuppreſſed Monaſteries ſhould be at once pulled down and their materials ſold. While therefore the other buildings of this Priory were left untouched, its Church was ruthleſſly diſmantled, and levelled to the ground. "The rudeneſſ of an hour annihilated the pious labour of ages; barbariſm triumphed over ſuperſtition." A few fragments only were afterwards recovered from the general wreck, and placed in the pariſh Church.⁴

The ruins of Monaſteries are not without ſignificance and inſtruction. They preach to all the grave leſſon of human inſtability—"Sic tranſit mundus et concupiſcentia ejus"—and to thoſe who are thinking to alienate to ſecular uſes gifts and endowments once offered to GOD, they hold out the ſolemn warning that ſuch ſpoliation can never be effected without evil conſequences to thoſe who divide the ſpoil.

Ye, who built the Churches where we worſhip,
Ye who framed the laws, by which we move;
Fathers, long belied and long forſaken,
Oh, forgive the children of your love.

Speak! But aſk us not to be as ye were!
All but God is changing day by day;
He, who breathes on man the plastic ſpirit,
Bids us mould ourſelves its robe of clay.

Old decays but foſter new creations;
Bones and aſhes feed the golden corn;
Freſh elixirs wander every moment
Down the veins, through which the live paſt
Feeds its child, the live unborn.

(The Saint's Tragedy, Kingsley).

¹ Extracted from "Pensions granted on diſſolution of monaſteries." Willis' MS., Quarto xlviii. in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

² A new Court was now formed, called "The Court of the Augmentation of the King's revenue," to take cognizance of all matters connected with the property of the diſſolved monaſteries.

This Court appointed many of the ejected monks to vacant benefices in order to eaſe the Exchequer of their pensions.

³ Stow's Annals, 626.

⁴ See page 82. Some drawings of capitals, plinths, mouldings, &c., found, on digging in 1819, are given in Dunkin's Appendix to Hiſtory of Ploughley and Bullingdon Hundreds.

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